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**WHICH?**  
**The Church of Man**  
**OR**  
**The Church of Jesus Christ?**



**BY**  
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✠ JOHN CARDINAL FARLEY

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This pamphlet is dedicated to Jesus Christ crucified. That all peoples of all countries may come to know and love Jesus; that they may search out His teachings, embrace His Holy Church and after a faithful service, through this vale of tears, merit the joys of Heaven which is the reward promised to all who faithfully follow the teachings of Jesus.

THE AUTHOR.

## THE PREFACE.

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It has been the experience of priest and laity that there are numberless good non-Catholics who have not studied the origin of the churches. They may not wish to read a lengthy book or pamphlet. Besides they may choose the line of least resistance and thereby avoid controversies. These few pages may be examined by any non-Catholic without taking the least offense or without any controversy being aroused. Some of the main misunderstandings, held by our non-Catholic friends, are here cleared away. If views they thought are erroneous, may it not be that all they heard against the Catholic Church is false? I have endeavored to put forth a brief pamphlet that will arouse the reader to seek further information. No one need hesitate to hand a copy to a friend. It is my hope that this little work will be of aid to priest, laity and earnest minded non-Catholics. In other words that both sides of the religious question be heard and then the decision rendered.

THE AUTHOR.

# WHICH?

## The Church of Man or The Church of Jesus Christ?

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### CREATION.

God made you to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him forever in Heaven.

### BELIEF IN GOD.

Generally speaking, all peoples who ever existed believed in a Supreme Being.

### TEACHER NEEDED.

You seek instruction, information or a teacher for everything that concerns affairs of the world. Why do you make an exception on religious matters?

### YOU NEED TRUE CHURCH.

Which church have you chosen and are you right? If not a member of any, which one must you select to be right? Claiming the title Christian, you believe Christ established a church. He said "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build **my church** (Christ did not say **my churches**. He used the singular number) and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Could the Church of Christ fail? Could man produce a better one?

## **CHRIST IS DIVINE.**

By His life, example and works Christ proved Himself to be the Son of God. Study His miracles and consider the Resurrection, which placed the seal of Divinity on His claim.

## **THE CHURCHES DIFFER.**

It is evident that the churches differ one from the other. The Methodists from the Baptists; the Presbyterians from the Episcopalians; the Episcopalians from the Catholics and so on with the many religions. While there may be good and bad in every church, that is not the question. Many a good family has a bad son or daughter. It is the origin of the churches that concerns us.

## **CAN CHRIST BE THE AUTHOR OF OPPOSITES?**

Can you logically and candidly assert that Christ founded all the churches with their divisions and sub-divisions and diverse teachings? Can He be the author of opposites?

## **CHRIST'S CHURCH IS EASILY FOUND.**

If you admit He founded a church, then it must necessarily be discoverable. It is your bounden duty to investigate the origin and claim of all the churches to decide which one (singular number) can be traced back to Christ. Have you made a study of the various claims?

## **GOOD SHEPHERD.**

Christ said, "I am the Good Shepherd." The picture comes to your mind of the Shepherd watching carefully. Is the flock exposed to poisonous pastures? Would Christ establish a church, and then leave the people to whims, fancies, poisonous doctrines and uncertainties, or would He impose on them the obligation of seeking His church and Him who said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life?"

## OBJECTIONS OR RATHER EXCUSES.

Some say we are all going to Heaven but by different roads. Do people on the ferry to New York assert they are all on the way to business but it doesn't make any difference which road they select or which means or method they use? They do not. They have positive and determinate views on the best means to success. Why be negative or indeterminate on the all important question of selecting the sure road to Heaven? It has been stated, "provided we go to Heaven, it matters not what we believe." Yes, of course, "provided." But remember, according to the Bible, we are judged immediately after death. Another has said, "I have no use for turn coats." Very well then, what use have you for the Apostles? They were "turn coats." What about Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and Henry the VIII? They were born Catholics. A person once remarked, "I am as good as those who go to church; in fact better than many of them." This is no argument against the church. Because there are counterfeit dollars, you will surely not argue that there are no genuine dollars. Do autoists say it is all the same which road they use to reach Philadelphia? Do normal people in affairs of life go about aimlessly? Don't you think you ought to be at least as active in seeking the church of the Saviour as you are in worldly matters? God has laid out The Road; we must follow it.

## BEST GUIDE AND TRUE CHURCH.

If you had a choice of a number of guides to show you about Washington, would you be indifferent, or would you be anxious to have the best? Which is the true and best church? One of the ones established by man or the one founded by Jesus Christ? History—whether Catholic or non-Catholic plainly states the origin of the various religions. Here we shall consider the prominent ones.

**Authorities Quoted Here  
Are Protestant**

“WHY I AM WHAT  
I AM.”

Published by J. S. Ogilvie, N. Y. City. In this book thirteen non-Catholic ministers, representing as many different churches, tell why they are what they are. References to the origin of churches may be found in reliable Encyclopedias and Histories. You might also call at the nearest Library determined to obtain a com-

Name.	Place of Origin	Founder	Year
True Wesleyan Methodist	New York	Delegates from Methodist Denom.	1843
Presbyterian New School	Philadelphia	General Assembly	1840
Seventh Day Baptists	United States	General Conference	1833
Methodist Protestant	Baltimore	Branch of Methodist Episcopal	1830
Methodist Society	New York	Branch of Methodist Episcopal	1820
Reformed Methodist	Vermont	Branch of Methodist Episcopal	1814
Campbellites	Virginia	Alex. Campbell	1813
Free Communion Baptists	New York	Benijah Corp	Close of 18th Century
Unitarian (American)	Boston	Jonathan Mayhew	1785
Free Will Baptists	New Hampshire	Benj. Randall	1780



Universalist (American)	Gloucester, Mass.	Rev. John Murray	1779	plete answer to the ques- tion, When, where and by whom were the vari- ous churches founded? Since most Protestants have, if not a fear, a feeling or dread at the thought of the Confes- sional, they may be tempted not to give the Catholic Church a min- ute inspection. Let them keep in mind that little children seven years old go to confession with no timidity but rather with joy. Let no one hesitate to learn the whole truth concerning religion.
Methodist Episcopal	England	John Wesley	1739	
Quakers	America	Wm. Penn	1681	
Quakers	England	George Fox	1647	
Baptists (1)	Rhode Island	Roger Williams	1639	
Congregationalists	England	Rob. Browne	1583	
Presbyterian Old School (2)	Scotland	General Assembly	1560	
Epscopalian (3)	England	Henry VIII	1534	
Lutheran (4)	Germany	Martin Luther	1524	
Anabaptists	Germany	Nicholas Stork	1521	
Catholic Church (5)	Jerusalem	Jesus Christ	33	

(1) The first congregation of Baptists was organized in the British Isles at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

(2) The Presbyterian church is traced back to Calvin. John Knox is the father of Presbyterianism as distinct from Reformed churches.

(3) Some Episcopalians say their church is a branch of the Catholic. There are no branches in the Catholic church. It is one thing or the other. Others claim to go back to Saint John, Saint Paul or Saint Augustine. The Protestant Episcopal church was founded in Virginia in 1607.

(4) Luther and Calvin have been named as the leaders of the so-called Reformation. Their conduct certainly did not help the Bible any for they threw it to the winds of fanciful interpretations. May not the various sects be traced back to the confusion the so-called Reformers produced on religious questions? The so-called Reformers having put forth the alluring cry of an "open bible," by no means agreed amongst themselves. They constantly disputed which doctrine was and which doctrine was not to be accepted. Certainly Luther, Henry VIII, Zwingli and Calvin did not permit liberty of conscience. The history of their times will verify this statement.

(5) Columbus, a Catholic, on discovering America in 1492 planted the cross and dedicated the new earth to the Saviour. Lief Ericson is pointed to at times as really the first Discoverer. He too was a Catholic. Having found favor with Olaf, Catholic King of Norway, Ericson set sail and on reaching new shores proclaimed the Catholic faith and announced the King's messages.

### **THE BIBLE ALSO GIVES AMPLE PROOF.**

Take now the Holy Scriptures for a moment and what description do you find therein of the church of Christ? We read that the Son of God placed four marks on His church: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic. Consider this last mark. A church claiming to be Apostolic must teach the identical doctrines once delivered by the Apostles and her ministers must derive their powers from the Apostles by an uninterrupted succession. It is impossible to connect any but the Catholic church with Apostolic days. In other words only the Catholic Church can forge a chain link by link from this

year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and eighteen back to Christ. Consequently to her alone He gave the Divine Commission, "Going therefore teach ye all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." Furthermore He gave the assurance, "and behold I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world." Could her credentials be firmer or clearer?

### **EVERY ORGANIZATION HAS A HEAD.**

Some complain because the Catholic church has a head. What would the human body be without a head? Don't the towns, cities, states, United States and different countries have a head? The Holy Father, the ruler of the Catholic church is infallible when as head of the entire church he teaches a doctrine of faith or morals. Christ promised to be with His church for all times, "'Behold I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world.'" Many without looking into the dictionary, say Catholics believe the Pope can't sin. That is another word altogether—impeccability. It is, of course possible that he may sin. At any rate the church does not teach that he cannot. The Holy Father is a pious, learned and zealous Ruler. That the center of the Catholic church should be Rome and that the Pope, a man of wonderful talent and diplomacy, should be a native of that beautiful country is all in the blessed Providence of God.

### **SCRIPTURAL TEST AS PROOF.**

To justify their particular brand of religion, the following passage of the bible is quoted, "'For where there are two or three gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them.'" Let us suppose four different churches on four corners of any city. In one, the people believe in infant baptism, and in faith joined with good works; in one, infant baptism is optional and faith alone is sufficient; in one, belief is given to the Holy Eucharist just as expressed in the bible, "This is my Body;" in one, communion is accepted in a mythical sense. Is Christ or can Christ be in the midst of all of them?

## BAPTISM.

Christ declared and He made no exception in your case, "Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Ghost, he cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven." Often times it is spoken of as an ornament or matter of choice. Are you baptized? The Catholic church does not teach and never has taught that children not baptized go to Hell.

## CONFESSION.

How often have non-Catholics condemned confession?

Do they really know what it is? Confession is the telling of our sins to a duly authorized Priest for the purpose of obtaining forgiveness. Honesty and sincerity are required. There are three parts to the Sacrament: Sorrow, confession and penance. The ridiculous charge that Catholics pay for confession is not worthy of refutation. If Catholic parents did not approve of the confessional, would they permit their children to approach it? Five things are necessary in order to go to Confession worthily. 1. We must examine our conscience, that is recall to mind the time of our last confession and the sins committed since then; 2. We must have sorrow for our sins; 3. We must make a firm resolution never more to offend God; 4. We must confess our sins to the priest; 5. We must accept the penance which the Priest gives us. It is claimed that some do not keep their resolutions long. There are sick people who do not improve because they do not follow the directions of their doctor. You might say I prefer to confess my sins in a different manner, for example, in my own room directly to God. Rather should you say, I desire the way Christ arranged. Confession is clear in the bible and the Catholic Church follows the way Christ ordered. He said "As the Father hath sent Me I also send you (Apostles and their successors). "Whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven them and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained."

## INDULGENCES.

After the sins are forgiven, there remains a temporal punishment that must be expiated in this world or in the next. Perhaps you are among those who confound indul-

gences and confession. An indulgence is a remission, made outside of and independent of confession, in whole or in part of the temporal punishment still due for the sins already forgiven. Do indulgences encourage wrong doing? The State at times paroles or pardons its prisoners. If parents and governors are empowered to remit inflicted punishment why not the Pope to whom Christ said, "Whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven."

### **THE HOLY EUCHARIST.**

Have you read the bible account of the Last Supper? Do you know it is only the Catholic Church that has the Holy Eucharist as Christ ordained it? A man once said he would like to attend the Sunday Catholic Mass but he didn't talk latin. There are few Catholics who do. The prayer books have the service in the language of the worshiper. The announcements and sermon are in the language of those who attend.

### **THE CRUCIFIX.**

If you are a Christian, do you love the crucifix? Have you one? Do you know what the Saviour accomplished for you by dying on the cross? What would you think of a man who claims to be a lawyer though he never studied law? What do you think of people who claim to be Christians though they know little or nothing about the teachings of Jesus? Could you pass an examination on the doctrines handed over by the Redeemer, through the Apostles and their successors, to mankind?

### **CHRISTIAN ART.**

The Catholic Church has been the Mother, Promoter and Protector of Art. So Catholics spend a great deal of money to beautify their churches with statuary, marble altars, stained glass windows, altar vessels, sanctuary lamps, paintings, etc. Catholics are second to none in the field of education, the sciences and the arts. Schools and public buildings usually contain statues or busts of Washington or Lincoln or some historic character. So the church has statues of the Saints, the chosen friends of God. There are

people uneducated enough to call church statues idols and others foolish enough to say that Catholics talk to them. Indeed every object in the church and every ceremony gone through has a deep religious signification. A reading or explanation of the bible, a little Christian education and faith in Christ are of course necessary to understand the teachings of the church.

### **PRIESTS ARE SINGLE.**

Do you know the percentage of men and women unmarried? Well, the Catholic priesthood is a very, very small portion of that number. There are many single people, both Catholic and non-Catholic, in every community who live virtuous lives. Certainly you don't claim that only those who hold marriage certificates are good. That priests are single is due to a law of the church. Read St. Paul, I Cor. Chap VII.

### **NO HIGHER CALL.**

Pastors of Catholic churches in any given diocese, whether in small or in big parishes receive the same amount of salary per year. The same is also true of their curates.

### **DIVORCE.**

Divorces are not granted by the Catholic Church. A separation for valid reasons may be permitted. Have you a clear conception of the difference between divorce and annulment? People are apt to commit the grave mistake of interchanging the terms divorce, annulment and invalidity.

### **THE BIBLE.**

There is much misunderstanding on the part of many good people regarding the bible in the Catholic Church. The church was in existence quite a time before the bible was completed. The bible was kept in good condition and circulated by the painstaking monks. Printing, which was invented by a Catholic, came along many years later. If the statement be true, "That the bible and the bible only must be your guide," why do non-Catholics have churches?

Again, what would the many do who cannot read? By no means are Catholics forbidden the bible. As soon as Catholic children reach their fifth and sixth year they are started on a study of the Holy Scripture. They are brought up with the understanding that the church is the rightful interpreter. Do we citizens claim the right to interpret the American Constitution as we see fit? Is the bible easier or harder?

### **PRIVATE JUDGMENT.**

Are not these terms misleading? Whether you are a Catholic or a non-Catholic don't you have to reason calmly in conformity to the laws of thought and render an honest judgment according to the facts before you. You don't claim "private judgment" in every day conversation, in business or in public courts. Why do you allow yourselves to be deceived into thinking that you may use "private judgment" in studying religion?

### **FREEDOM OF THOUGHT.**

As a matter of fact wherein do non-Catholics enjoy more religious freedom than Catholics? If non-Catholics say they believe in God, don't they give entire credence to Him and all His teachings? They may answer but Catholics render obedience to the Pope. That is true; to him as the Representative of Christ, the Son of God. Don't non-Catholics grant obedience to their lawful church Superiors? There is a big difference claimed, but in reality is there more than a difference of procedure on this point? Must not all obey the laws of their city, state and country? Is not all freedom founded on law and order?

### **PRAYERS.**

The idea of God the Creator of heaven and earth and all things implies prayer. When do you pray and how? Could you recite the ten commandments and what is better, do you keep them?

## **TWO SIDES TO EVERY CASE.**

If you were accused of a crime, would you want the Judge to condemn you without a hearing? Have you given the claims of the churches a hearing? If you haven't, do you honestly think it is fair to Christ and yourself? Isn't it the most important question you could consider? When you stand before the Judgment Seat of God, will you try to tell Him you did your best? Have you exhaustively studied the different churches and their claims?

### **CONVERTS.**

It is estimated that 30,000 persons are converted each year in the United States to the Catholic religion. They come from the lowest as well as the highest ranks of society. They come from different walks of life: clergymen, judges, lawyers, actors, doctors, artists, writers, mechanics, laborers, rich and poor. Bear in mind they enter the church by the aid of reason and faith and not through influence or for material advantages. On the contrary, in many cases, great sacrifices are made due to the ignorance, interference and bigotry of others.

### **LOYAL CITIZENS.**

The immortal Washington repeatedly stated that Catholics are good loyal American citizens. Indeed, though history has many instances of the loyalty of Catholics to the American flag, we don't need to turn its pages. In our own time, look at the large number of Catholics who in this great world war are standing on the battlefield shoulder to shoulder with Protestant and Jew. Secretary Baker has stated that 52% of the regular army and from 42 to 45% of the national army and from 40 to 50% of the navy are Catholics.

### **PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

The Catholic church is not an enemy of the Public School. The truth of the matter is that many notable Ministers and prominent citizens agree with the Catholic church in insisting that the heart as well as the head of the child be trained: that education and religious training go hand in hand, and in such a way as will protect the rights of both the Catholic and the non-Catholic pupil.



## **CHURCH AND STATE.**

If the effort to unite church and state be ever attempted in these United States, the Catholic church will be the very first to oppose the union. Each must do its own work, and neither must interfere with nor control the other. The political or financial religious alarmist, disturber or schemer is a vile creature and every good citizen should wish for his extermination. For every little "bit" handed out along this line to willing dupes or tools, one hundred "bits" are expected in return.

## **SPANISH INQUISITION.**

Such an institution could only exist in a country where there is union of church and state. In this case the state really predominated. Yet many refer to the Spanish Inquisition as a Catholic horror. Strange that prejudiced persons don't know about the Calvinistic Inquisition or the Puritanical Inquisition that once flourished in our own country. There has been and is a Secret Inquisition in America before which Catholics are hailed (but not in person and mostly without their knowledge) and are judged and condemned simply because they are Catholics. This despite the guarantee of religious freedom by the American Constitution. Whereas, the other named Inquisition dealt comparatively with a few, this Secret Inquisition tortures millions, strikes at the fundamental principles of American liberty; destroys good fellowship and impedes neighborly intercourse.

## **A GOOD MOTTO.**

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being whether Catholic or non-Catholic, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again.

## **A SERIOUS DUTY.**

You have time for pleasure, business and making money. Do you expect to deceive God? What are you going to do about it? Which? The church of man or the church of Jesus Christ?

## **PROPER CREDENTIALS.**

An ambassador from the U. S. to England must present proper credentials. Are you sure that the clergyman in charge of your church is empowered and delegated to give you the Word of God? Why not examine both his credentials and his teachings? Christ gave to the world one and only one set of teachings. Are you being taught that one set?

### **FOR THE NON-CATHOLIC SIDE OF THE CASE.**

You may consult the bible, the many non-Catholic authorities mentioned on pages 6 and 7 or any good history. History of course cannot be narrow or prejudiced. Cicero says history: "The witness of ages, the light of truth, the life of our memory, the teacher of our lives, a messenger from the distant past."

### **FOR THE CATHOLIC SIDE OF THE CASE.**

The Bible; Catechism; Faith of Our Fathers by Cardinal Gibbons; the works of Cardinal Newman and Cardinal Wiseman; Pastoral Letters by Cardinal Farley and Cardinal O'Connell; The Question of Anglican Ordination by Cardinal Gasquet, O. S. B.; The Christian Church by the Rt. Rev. J. A. McFaul, D. D.; The Fairest Argument by Father Noll, Editor of Our Sunday Visitor; The Catholic Church from Without, by Rev. James A. Carey; The Catholic's Ready Answer by Rev. M. P. Hill, S. J.; The Catholic Encyclopedia; The Works of Father Vaughan and Monsignor Benson; The Question Box by Rev. B. L. Conway, C. S. P.; Side Switches by Rev. J. W. Book and Rev. T. J. Jenkins; The Relation of the Catholic Church to Education, Arts and Sciences by Rev. Dr. R. M. Huber, O. M. C.; Questions asked by Protestants by Rev. M. Phillips; Does it Matter What I Believe, by Rev. B. J. Otten, S. J.; Liberalism in Religion by Rev. M. H. MacInerney, O. P.; The Publications of Our Home and Foreign Mission Societies; The weekly Catholic newspapers. If any non-Catholics have special religious difficulties, the nearest Catholic pamphlet publishing house in their vicinity, upon request and a two cent stamp will mail them a catalogue.

## A LAST APPEAL.

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Christ in His last agony cried out, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" The end was now rapidly approaching and Jesus Who had been hanging for hours upon the cross was suffering from that torment of thirst which is most difficult of all the human frame to bear. He cried aloud "I thirst." With eyes uplifted to Heaven, He prayed: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." And now that the end was come, "Father," He said, "It is finished." Then with one more great effort, He uttered the last cry, "Father into Thy hands I commend my Spirit." Gentle reader won't you now promise to seek out and faithfully follow every day of your life the church of Jesus Christ?

THE AUTHOR.

It has been well said that the people are now in a receptive frame of mind for religious truth.

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If through the mercy of God by reading this pamphlet, we bring ourselves and other Catholics to a greater love towards the Cross, much will have been accomplished. But if we go further and help to direct people to Christ Crucified and His church, great will be the glory to God and many blessings will rest on each one who aided. Let the Catholic laity read it carefully for what may form frequent conversation with friends is explained in a simple manner easy to remember. Let each one co-operate in placing a copy of this pamphlet into the hands of each non-Catholic and may they in turn seek Christ Crucified and the One True Fold.

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