

It is *Blasphemy* and not as some say *Sin* against the Holy Ghost, and as Blasphemy must be in spoken word it is a sin of *Speech*, and not of thought or deed only. There have been various views of the meaning, some have said, it is final impenitency, or final apostasy, or malicious resistance of gospel truth, or as some heretics, sin after baptism, but these are all different from *Blasphemy*. The extremely solemn, loving, and yet stern words of the Saviour imply that the Pharisees were on the verge of being guilty of this crime, and St. Mark gives the reason, "because they said, 'He hath an unclean spirit.'" Remark the heinousness of this sin. Our Lord's miracles were unmistakeable evidence of divinity: similar miracles done by the disciples of the Pharisees in the name of the God of Abraham were acknowledged as divine. Now, however, from spiteful hearts they ascribe the Lord's miracles to Satan; and there was but one step further, and that was to call the Holy Ghost by that name: This would be *Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost*. Blasphemous thoughts are not this sin. We may say that the unpardonable Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost is the outcome or result of an infidel heart, deliberately declaring itself in the utterance of blasphemous words. Some modern Jews and French infidels have done this.

4. *What is meant by "the Lord and giver of life?"*

The Lord, or God Himself, and the life-giver, or giver of spiritual life [36], of all life natural and spiritual. The uncreated one, who created all things and hath given them life. [17]

5. *What do you mean by "the Holy Catholic Church?" Do you belong to it?*

The Church founded by Christ Himself, "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone." That Church which was the four marks of the Catholic Faith, continuing in the Apostles Doctrine, Fellowship, the Breaking of the Bread, and the Prayers.

The Church consists of members made so by Baptism, but there are both good and bad among them.

*Holy*.—Called Holy because its Founder is Holy; members are called to Holiness of life; offices and appointments Holy—"If the Root be Holy, so are the Branches."

*Catholic*.—Universal as opposed to national, such as Jewish; because of its diffusiveness; because of its containing all truths necessary to salvation; and universal obedience prescribed by it.

I do belong to it. [36]

Holy Catholic Church. I mean the Church founded on the Day of Pentecost, upon the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone. Holy: Its members are engaged to Holiness of life. Its teachings are Holy. Catholic means General. It is called Catholic because of its diffusiveness, the command was given, Go teach all nations, differing from the Jewish Church which was national. Catholic, because all graces are given it. It teaches all things necessary for a christian to know, all precepts are given it. I do belong to the Holy Catholic Church. [34]

6. *Why is the teaching about the Church connected in the Creed with the Holy Ghost, and not with our Blessed Lord?*

Because it is through the Holy Ghost that we are made partakers of the fruits of Christ's redemption. He unites us to Christ in *Baptism*; "By One Spirit are we all baptized into one Body:" and He regenerates us in Baptism: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." *St. John iii.*

In *Confirmation*, He it is "Whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption."

In *Holy Communion*, it is through Him we receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

In *Ordination*, St. Paul says: "Whereof the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers."

He dwells in the Church sent down by the Son when glorified: He guides the Church into all truth, and He it is "that sanctifieth me and all the elect people of God." [36]

8. *Distinguish between the Church Militant, the Church Expectant, and the Church Triumphant.*

The *Church Militant* is that portion of the Holy Catholic Church now fighting here upon earth; the *Church Expectant*, that part in Paradise, waiting until both those portions will be united; in the *Church Triumphant*, in Heaven. [26]

9. *Distinguish between the work of the Spirit outside the Church and within the Church.*

The work of the Spirit outside the Church is to call men to repentance and to bring them to Christ, the Good Shepherd, within the fold. Within the Church, it is to guide, strengthen, purify and sanctify the members; to sanctify the waters of Baptism; to anoint with the sevenfold gifts in Confirmation; to give power in Holy Orders; to enable the members to discern the Lord's Body in the Holy Eucharist. [37]