

And does not the light of reason clearly demonstrate the necessity of unity in the Church of Christ? Jesus Christ cannot deny himself, nor can he be divided, nor can he teach opposite doctrines. He cannot say to you that you must form your own religion and be saved, that you must confess your sins to him alone; that, it matters little what religion we belong to, provided we believe in him, and at the same time tell me that, unless I hear the Church and be governed by her, I cannot be saved, and that unless I do penance and confess my sins to His ministers and be subject to them, I can have no part with him. Christ taught but one doctrine, not two, He founded but one Church, not two. He likewise established but one ministry and one government, for what constitutes a society is government, from which it would follow that if there were more than one faith and one government, that there would be more than one Church, and more than one way to gain heaven.

We will now show by the most convincing proof that the Catholic Church is one in faith, in worship and government, and has, consequently, this first mark of the Church founded by Christ.

She is, in the first place, one in faith. I defy all the sectaries, from Simon the Magician, down to Joe Smith or Bishop Cummings, to show the slightest division in Catholic doctrine. The symbol of the Catholic Church, which is a summary of the three revelations, primitive, Mosaic, and Divine, is one. What the Church believes to-day, she believed yesterday, and will believe always. Unbelievers and heretics may do their utmost, may search her annals for 1,800 years, and will fail to find a single day, in which the sun of Catholic truth was eclipsed.

Read over the decrees of all the Councils from that assembled by St. Peter in Jerusalem, to that convoked by the venerable and immortal Pius IX, now a prisoner of the Vatican, and you cannot find one iota of difference in the belief of Catholics. All agree on the truths they are to believe. The enquirer after truth may search through the world; he may travel north, south, east and west; visit Europe, Asia, Africa and America; go through every country; go everywhere, and ask every Catholic he meets, clerical or layman, religious or secular, young or old, learned or ignorant, all who have been taught the rudiments of their religion, he may ask them respecting their faith, respecting their practices, respecting the sacraments, and all that concerns religion, and from one and all the same answer will be given.

Everywhere, on the face of the globe, amongst good and pious Catholics, though strangers in the flesh, and of different customs and language, will be found the self-same faith, the self-same sacraments; there will be found one heart and one mind and one voice with regard to all the doctrines and commandments of the Church. This is unity, and it is Divine. It is no human coincidence or contrivance. The finger of God is there!

The Catholic Church is one in government. Look at the Church from the cradle of her existence, at the foot of the Cross, down to the present day, and you cannot find the least change or variation in her form of government. You will ever find at the head of this immense empire, that takes in the whole world, one head—one pontiff.

True, at one time, there was some doubt among the faithful as to the right Pope, but they never even thought that there should be two at the same time. It thus appears the wonderful form of the Church, existing from age to age,