

THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

THERE are twelve great truths taught in the Creed. The first eight articles relate to one or other of the Three Persons of the Blessed Trinity; in the ninth Article we profess our belief in the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints.

What is the Holy Catholic Church?

All faithful people under one Head.

The Catholic Church is made up of all the faithful; that is, of all who are baptized, and who profess the true faith.

Those members of the Church on earth who are leading wicked lives, will never be members of the Church in Heaven, unless they sincerely repent.

Our Blessed Lord compares the Church to a net cast into the sea and gathering together all kinds of fish.

But at the Day of Judgment, He tells us the Angels will go forth and separate the good from the bad, and the good only shall be gathered into the kingdom of Heaven.

The Apostle St Paul compares the Church to the human body, which is made up of many different senses and members, each having its own separate work to do, but all closely united under one head, which rules and directs everything.

The feet carry the body from place to place, the hands work for its support; the eyes, the ears, the lips, &c., all have their special work to do; but it is the head that thinks and directs the whole.

So in the Church of Christ, all

have not the same duty or office. Some are appointed to teach, and others to learn; some to rule, and others to obey: but all believe the same doctrines, and acknowledge the same Head, our Lord Jesus Christ.

He it is Who founded the Church, and He it is Who governs and preserves her.

It was not His will to remain always *visibly* among men. He had to ascend to His Heavenly Father, there to sit at the Right Hand of God till He comes again to judge the world. He has, therefore, appointed others to govern in His name First, the Apostles, and afterwards their successors, the Bishops and Priests of the Church.

SUNDAY.

WHAT is Sunday, my friends? You will tell me that it is the Lord's Day, and you are right.

St. John says (Rev. i. 10.): "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day." So that we have the authority of God's Word for calling Sunday by this name. Since it is "the Lord's Day," it must be *all* His, to be spent in His worship, in His service and in the special training of our souls for Heaven. Since it is "the Lord's Day," and not ours, then it cannot be lawful for Christian men and women to spend it in worldly pleasure and amusement, still less in pursuit of worldly gain. It cannot be lawful for us to waste any part of it in laziness or sloth, for though it is meant to be a day of rest, it is not meant to be a day of idleness. God has given us this holy day to be one of spiritual refreshment and blessing; and depend upon it He will ask us what