

# The 7 SACRAMENTS ARE...

Baptism

EUCCHARIST

CONFIRMATION

Reconciliation

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

MARRIAGE

Holy Orders

**How many sacraments can one person receive?**

## 9.4 Ten GREAT Reasons to be Catholic

I love being Catholic, and there are an infinite number of great reasons to be Catholic, but let's take a look at ten of them.

You can't put these things in order, and we could argue about the order until the end of the world. Be here they are:

10. This is the Church that Jesus Christ started and sent the Holy Spirit to guide. It is unique and original.

9. The Catholic Church has relieved more suffering than any other group of people in the history of the world. We care for the sick, the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, the uneducated, and the imprisoned. I love being part of that.

8. We have history and mystery. To really understand Christianity you need a historical perspective, and the history of Christianity is Catholic. For more than fifteen hundred years there were no Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, Pentecostal Christians, Lutherans, Mormons, Evangelical Christians, Non-Denominational Christians. Today, there are more than twenty-five thousand different Christian denominations, but they all lack the rich and beautiful history we have as Catholics. We have history, and we have mystery. We know it's all right not to have the answer to everything. Some things are a mystery, and that's OK.

7. We have the Saints. These are the great heroes and heroines of Christianity. They are the most diverse group of people in history. Some were rich and some were poor; some were very well educated and some had no formal education; some were young and others were old. They have lived in every century, on every continent, in every country – and they all tried to be the best version of themselves. Now they are in Heaven, cheering you on.

6. We believe in the power of prayer. At every moment of every day Mass is being prayed in thousands of places around the world. That's our family praying for the whole world. We don't just pray for Catholics; we pray for everyone. Imagine how different the history of the world would have been if the Catholic Church had never offered a single prayer.

5. It's the same all around the world. I took a group on a pilgrimage a few years ago and we all went to Mass in Florence. That night I asked the group about the experience of attending Mass in Italian. They said, "Even though I don't speak Italian, I still knew what was going on." Catholicism is the same everywhere, and that's a beautiful thing.

4. The Catholic Church is the premier defender of human rights.

3. You need to be part of something bigger than yourself. Life is not about you. It's about laying down your life in the service of others out of love for God. You could lay down your life for a sport, a career, money, things . . . and people do. But what a waste! The Catholic Church has the most important mission in the world—and you are invited to get involved and be a part of that great mission!

2. The Eucharist. Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist.

1. You don't say no to God when he invites you. There are some invitations we don't turn down.

I can come up with great reasons to be Catholic all day long, but ultimately you need to come up with your own. I can't give you my love of the Church. I wish I could. In the end you have to make Catholicism your own.

**GOD HAS A  
BETTER PLAN  
THAN ANY  
YOU CAN PUT  
TOGETHER  
FOR YOURSELF.**

BE  
ORIGINAL.  
BE  
Catholic.

*The*  
**SACRAMENTS**  
*are at the*  
**CENTER**  
*of the*  
**LIFE OF THE  
CHURCH.**

# Discussion Questions

1. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST REASON TO BE CATHOLIC?

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2. WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN THIS SESSION THAT REALLY MADE YOU STOP AND THINK?

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3. HOW DID THE TOP TEN REASONS TO BE CATHOLIC CHANGE THE WAY YOU VIEW CATHOLICISM?

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