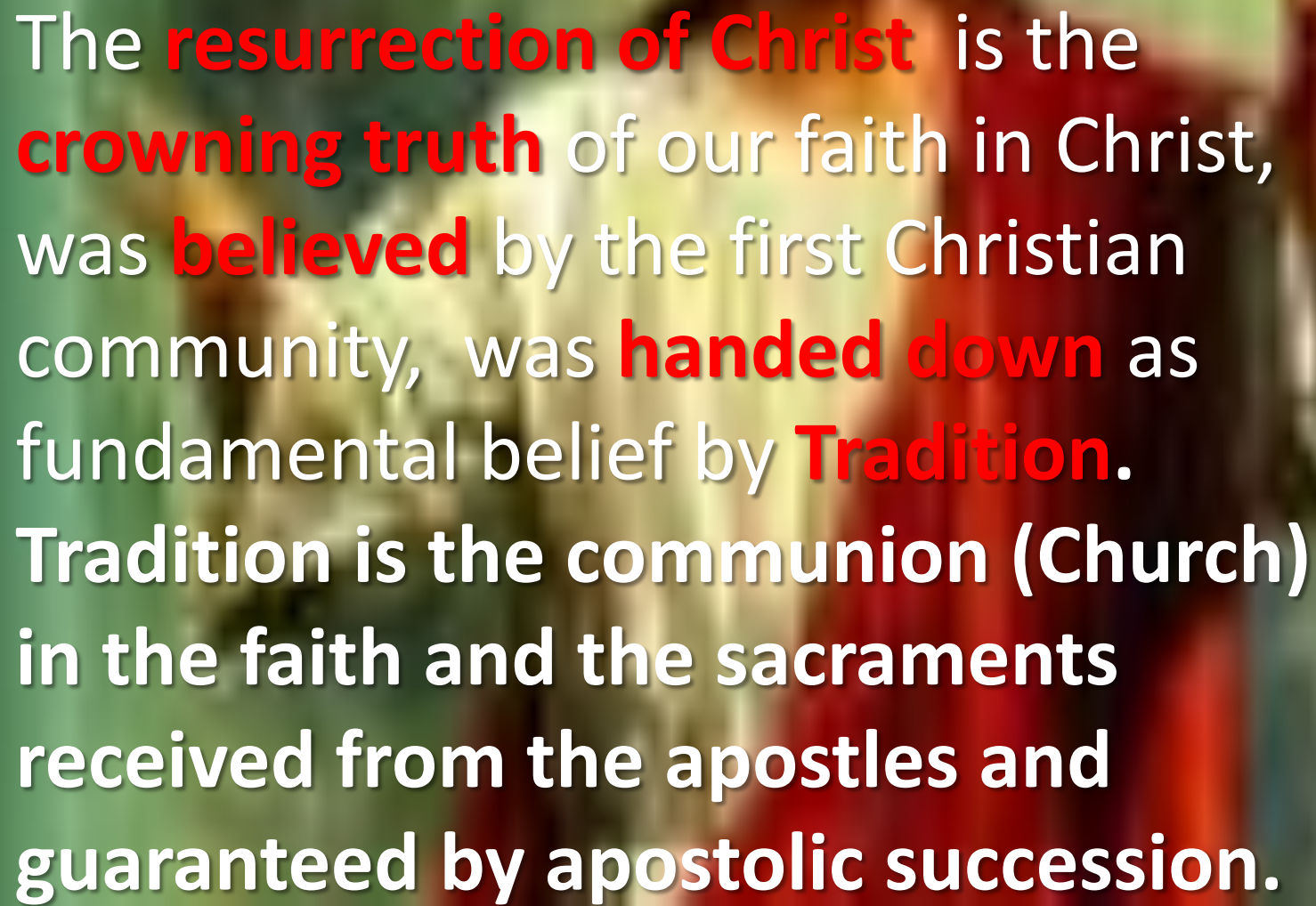


Catholic Practices

- Tradition(s)
- Rites
- Sacramentals
- Popular piety
- October 31,2013





The **resurrection of Christ** is the **crowning truth** of our faith in Christ, was **believed** by the first Christian community, was **handed down** as fundamental belief by **Tradition**.
Tradition is the communion (Church) in the faith and the sacraments received from the apostles and guaranteed by apostolic succession.

Traditions and Rites

- The **Mystery** celebrated by the Churches of God in the Liturgy is **one** and has an **immutable** part (divinely instituted and cannot be changed by the Church.)
- The **diverse forms (rites)** of this Liturgical celebration tend to express themselves in the culture of the people where (geography), when(history), the Church finds itself.
- Church has power to change these rites but never to damage unity.

Rites continued

Rite Latin – religious custom, usage, ceremony

- By Church law, **Baptism initiates** not only into Church but also into a specific **rite**.

-**Nine major rites:**

Latin or Roman, Byzantine, Armenian, Chaldean, Coptic, Ethiopian, Malabar, Maronite and Syrian

Sacramentals

- **sacred signs** instituted by the Church (do not confer the grace of the Holy Spirit in the way that sacraments do.)
- **signify effects**, obtained through the intercession of the Church, particularly of a spiritual nature.

Sacramentals continued

- **render holy** (sanctify) various occasions in life, certain ministries of the Church, certain states in life, the use of many things helpful to man.
- **always include a prayer**, often accompanied by a specific sign. (e.g. Sign of the Cross or laying on of hands or sprinkling of holy water.)

Sacramentals continued

- **prepare us** to receive grace and dispose us to cooperate with it (by the Church's prayer)
- Among sacramentals **blessings** (of persons, meals, objects, and places) come first. Every blessing praises God and prays for God's gifts.

Sacramentals continued

Persons:

- 1) those consecrated to God (excluding priests who receive sacrament of holy orders.)
- 2) ministries in the church

Meals: In the spirit of thanksgiving to God for all we have and all we are.

Objects:

- 1) dedication of a church or an altar.
- 2) blessing of holy oils, holy water, vessels, vestments, bells, ashes, incense, medals, scapulars

Popular Piety

“In addition to the liturgy, sacramentals, and rites, Christian life is nourished by various forms of piety ...”



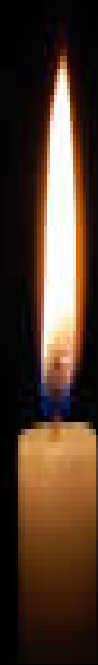
Popular Piety

These include:

- **adoration** of the Real Presence/Benediction (Jesus is always with us.)
- the **Advent calendar** (we count down to Christmas.) and the **Liturgical calendar**. (celebrating the great events of our salvation during the year.)
- **ashes/palms** (celebrating symbols of Lent)

Popular Piety

- **lighting of candles**
(remembering the Light of Christ)
- **fasting, abstinence, almsgiving** (in the spirit of giving to our neighbor for Christ)
- **genuflection**
(adoration of Christ)



Popular Piety

- **making the sign of the Cross** with/without holy water.
- the wearing and veneration of **medals/scapulars** (reminding us of the communion of saints.)
- visits to sanctuaries and **pilgrimages** (to remind us of Christ's time on earth, his Church and how and where it was founded, the places he trod etc.)

Popular Piety

- **praying the rosary** (reminding us of who Christ was/is and of his mission)
- making the **stations of the Cross** (tracing the path of Christ's passion)
- putting up of **statues or holy pictures** (reminding us of Jesus, Mary, Joseph and other saints) and practicing devotion to same.)



Popular Piety

- taking part in **processions, music,** dancing in the Spirit (expressing our joy in the faith)
- going on **retreat**

We must always remember that these expressions of piety extend the liturgical life of the Church, but they do not replace it.



Prayer homework – discussion questions etc.

- Hymn
- Discussion:
- What does tradition mean to you?
- Share your favorite tradition(s).
- Choose one of the practices of piety mentioned in the talk (or on your handout) and discuss your previous experience with this practice. Discuss which practice you think you might like to practice during the next week.