15 - The Church

I Founded by Jesus

 A Based on the foundation of the 12

 B Matthias Replaces Judas in the book of Acts

 C Based on appointment, selected by Jesus (Matthias by the other 11 after consultation)

 D Principle of Apostolic Succession

 1 unbroken line of succession by ordination (laying on of hands)

 2 Ordination makes the person able to do Sacramental actions and gives Jesus’ authority to their decisions and actions

 E Everything we believe and hold true comes from this early church

 F One Church means that there is a unity in faith, a unity in teaching, and a unity in charity.

 G This unity is preserved by the authority of the apostles (Bishops), especially Peter (the Pope)

 H When a Bishop dies, another one is chosen by the Pope and is ordained and installed

 I The Church is Holy

 1 The holiness of the Church comes from Christ's holiness

 2 The Church is holy because God is Holy and the Church shares in God's very own life and holiness, especially through the Sacraments.

 3 The word holy means set apart for a special purpose by and for God

 a It does not imply that the members of the Church are free from sin, nor that the institution of the Church cannot sin

 b Christ's Church is holy because it is Christ's Church

II Who’s who

 A Laity – ordinary people who belong to the Church

 1 Those in the order of Marriage

 2 Those in the religious Orders

 a Men religious – monks or brothers

 b Women religious – Nuns or Sisters

 c Consecrated virgins

 3 Those associated with religious orders (third orders or associates)

 4 Those in OCIA preparing to become Catholic

 5 All others

 B Holy Orders

 1 Sacrament (Ordination) enabling specific actions and roles

 2 Three separate by related groups

 3 Deacons

 a Serve the Bishop or His delegate

 b has limited sacramental role and actions

 c all other orders are first ordained Deacons

 d May have honorary titles and roles (subdeacon, archdeacon, etc.)

 4 Priest (Presbyter, elder)

 a Bishop’s delegate

 b has only a few things they cannot do sacramentally

 c All Bishops are also priests

 d assist the bishop in shepherding and guiding

 e May have honorary titles and roles (monsignor, archpriest)

 5 Bishop (Episcopes, Apostle)

 a Runs the “local Church” called a diocese

 b has the fullness of Holy Orders – sacramentally can do everything

 c Has a role for the whole Church

 d may have special roles and titles (Cardinal, Patriarch, Archbishop, Pope)

 6 Those in Holy orders are tasked with preserving and teaching the faith

III Ways of looking at the Church

 A The Body of Christ

 B The communion of Saints

 1 The Church Militant – living and battling evil in this life

 2 The Church Suffering – being cleansed of their sins before entering heaven

 3 The Church triumphant – the saints in heaven

 C The sacramental presence of God in the world

 D The light to the nations

 E The New Israel

 F The Bride of Christ

 G Others!

IV The Church is here to help you get to heaven

 A Sacraments

 B Morals

 C Guidance

 D "catholic" comes from a Greek word that means "general", "universal” "according to the whole", "entirely", or "in general”.

 1 "catholic" means that in the church exists the wholeness of the Christian faith, full and complete, all-embracing, and with nothing lacking.

 2 This complete faith is proclaimed to all people without excluding any part of the faith or any class or group of people.

 E Apostolic means that this faith can be attributed to the Apostles, to the followers that Jesus taught and gathered into a group, an “ecclesia” (church).

 1 Each Bishop is a successor to these Apostles, and has the “job” of guarding and transmitting the faith whole and entire.

 2 Each Bishop (and the Priests and Deacons they ordain) is in an unbroken line of succession to the original Apostles – called the Apostolic Succession

Cite Acts 1:21-26 where the Apostles choose and ordain a replacement for Judas

1 Timothy 1:6 and 4:14, where Paul reminds Timothy that the office of bishop had been conferred on him through the laying on of hands (ordination).

The Bishop of Rome traces his ordination to Saint Peter, and is the successor of Peter’s “Throne” of unity and authority.

Through countryside and city [the apostles] preached, and they appointed their earliest converts, testing them by the Spirit, to be the bishops and deacons of future believers. Nor was this a novelty, for bishops and deacons had been written about a long time earlier. . . .

- Pope St. Clement [A.D. 80]

"See that you all follow the bishop, even as Jesus Christ does the Father, and the presbytery as you would the apostles; and reverence the deacons, as being the institution of God. Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop.“

- Ignatius of Antioch (c. 35-107)

“When I had come to Rome, I [visited] Anicetus, whose deacon was Eleutherus. And after Anicetus [died], Soter succeeded, and after him Eleutherus. In each succession and in each city there is a continuance of that which is proclaimed by the law, the prophets, and the Lord”

- St. Hegesippus of Jerusalem [A.D. 180]

And we are in a position to enumerate those who were instituted bishops by the apostles and their successors down to our own times…

- St. Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons [A.D. 189]

 St. Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons [A.D. 189]:

“But since it would be too long to enumerate in such a volume as this the successions of all the churches, we shall confound all those who, in whatever manner, whether through self-satisfaction or vainglory, or through blindness and wicked opinion, assemble other than where it is proper, by pointing out here the successions of the bishops of the greatest and most ancient church known to all, founded and organized at Rome by the two most glorious apostles, Peter and Paul—that church which has the tradition and the faith with which comes down to us after having been announced to men by the apostles. For with this Church, because of its superior origin, all churches must agree, that is, all the faithful in the whole world. And it is in her that the faithful everywhere have maintained the apostolic tradition”

CCC Article 9 Paragraph 1. 751-780; Paragraph 2. 781-810 ; Paragraph 3. 811-870