

2016 Summer SBC 04

Raphael and the six others, from
Rosemary Skidmore

What does Catholic mean?, from
Alex Constant

Raphael and Six Others

Submitted by Rosemary Skidmore

Raphael and the Six Others

Tobit 12

14 So now God sent me to heal you and your daughter-in-law Sarah. **15 I am Raph'ael, one of the seven holy angels** who present the prayers of the saints and enter into the presence of the glory of the Holy One."

16 They were both alarmed; and they fell upon their faces, for they were afraid. **17** But he said to them, "Do not be afraid; you will be safe. But praise God for ever. **18** For I did not come as a favor on my part, but by the will of our God.

Raphael and the Six Others

1. There are seven angels who have access to the presence of God in a special and distinct way.
2. We know them as Archangels
3. They act primarily as “messengers” (the word angel means messenger in Greek)
4. Comparing this passage to others in Scripture, we learn that each of these seven Archangels seem to serve a different function – to deliver a unique type of message.
Raphael delivers messages of healing and deliverance from evil
Gabriel delivers messages of hope, salvation and wisdom: Luke and Matt
Michael delivers defense from and victory over the enemy: Rev

Raphael and the Six Others

1. From Scripture we know there are Seven.
2. From Scripture we know the names of three:
Michael
Gabriel
Raphael
3. From other sources, Tradition has named the other seven:
Uriel
Raguel
Ramiel
Sariel

See the book of Enoch and the Book of Jude

Raphael and the Six Others

1. Fun Fact: The El at the end of the names of the Angel means Go in Hebrew. Therefore, the EL denotes that these Angels are particularly close to God.

Michael (Who is like God?)
Gabriel (my strength is God)
Raphael (The Healer is God)

Uriel (My light is God)
Raguel (Friend of God)
Ramiel (Thunder of God)
Sariel (command of God)

Raphael and the Six Others

We celebrate these seven angels and all angels with the
Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (a.k.a. Michaelmas)

Every September 29th

Here at Holy Trinity Church
because of the importance of this Feast
we will observe

Michaelmas

Sunday, September 25

What Does Catholic Mean?

Submitted by Alex Constant

What Does Catholic Mean?

First of all, we profess to be Catholic every time we worship together.

From the Nicene Creed at Holy Communion
And from the Apostles Creed at the Daily Offices

“And I believe in one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church...”

We believe there is only one Church and it is Catholic!

What Does Catholic Mean?

Therefore the question,
What does Catholic mean?

What Does Catholic Mean?

The word Catholic is very ancient and is a conjunction of two Greek words

kata = from the, or according to

holo = the whole

Katholic - according to the whole

What Does Catholic Mean?

The word Catholic describes the Church as being according to the whole of the faith

Catholic describes a way of being the church which embraces all that Christ offers (as opposed to our favorite parts only)

Catholic describes a Church which refuses to drop any portion of the Faith which is legitimately part of the Christian heritage

A Catholic Church is a whole church or perhaps a wholistic church

What Does Catholic Mean?

The Vencentian Canon*

**A Canon is a standard by which things are measured*

Named for St. Vencent of Lerins (died c. 445 AD)

A monk in Gaul (modern France) and wrote many excellent and influential works defending Chrsitianity from Heresies of his day.

By the time of St. Vincent, the word Catholic was commonly used to describe the Church

(remember, at that time, there was only one Church and no denominations – no Romans Catholics, no Eastern Orthodox, no Anglicans; no Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians or Pentecostals! *Thought there were certainly churches in Rome, Constantinople, Britain, Germany, Hungaria, and Switzerland.*)

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In his efforts to combat heresies, St. Vencent defined

Catholic:

that which has been believed

in all places

at all times

by all people.

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This concept is based on Holy Scripture,
clearly articulated in St. Jude 1:3

**“I appeal to you,
contend for the faith
which was once for all delivered
to the saints.”**

See also: Ephesians 4:4-6; Galatians 3:27-28; Zechariah 14:9;
John 16:13

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For a Doctrine, Practice or Tradition to be Catholic is must conform to all three parts of this Canon.

Example: Infant Baptism:

Has been taught from the beginning of the Church until now

Has been practiced in all places the Church has reached

Has been believed by all the Church in all but the most fringe of its members. (Perspective: Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians all practice infant Baptism and account for nearly 80 percent of the worlds Christians. Add in the Oriental Orthodox and other Paedo-Baptists and the number could approach 90%)

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Anglicans are Catholic because we have embraced the whole faith as it was handed down to the Saints of the New Testament and passed on to future generations till we received it whole and entire.

As Anglicans, we are committed to the Catholic Faith, so that we will not admit anything as necessary to Faith except what is truly Catholic.

What Does Catholic Mean?

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**A Canon is a standard by which things are measured*

"The Anglican Communion has no peculiar thought, practice, creed or confession of its own. It has only the Catholic Faith of the ancient Catholic Church, as preserved in the Catholic Creeds and maintained in the Catholic and Apostolic constitution of Christ's Church from the beginning."

Archbishop of Canterbury Geoffrey Fisher

NOTE: This is obviously an ideal which is not always followed perfectly but should stand as our guiding principle, helping us to be truly Anglican and to understand other Churches which claim catholicity.

What Does Catholic Mean?

So, if we are Catholic, how do we account for the differences between Anglicans and Roman Catholics or Greek Orthodox?

What Does Catholic Mean?

So, if we are Catholic, how do we account for the differences between Anglicans and Roman Catholics or Greek Orthodox?

First, we are alike in fundamental ways:

All Catholics are Trinitarian

All Catholics believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

All Catholics are Sacramental

All Catholics share the same Scriptures and believe them to be the inspired Word of God

All Catholics believe in the Divinity and Ministry of the Holy Ghost

What Does Catholic Mean?

To be continued next week ...