

# AGGIE CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS TEAM

*Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence...  
- 1 Peter 3:15*

<http://www.aggiecatholic.org/aggiecat>

## The Church is Holy

October 20, 2014

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“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” -Galatians 5:22-23

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### **Christ is the Source of the Church’s Holiness.**

CCC 1708: “By his Passion, Christ delivered us from Satan and from sin. He merited for us the new life in the Holy Spirit. His grace restores what sin had damaged in us.”

CCC 1709: “In union with his Savior, the disciple attains the perfection of charity which is holiness.”

LG 40: “In order that the faithful may reach this perfection, they must use their strength accordingly as they have received it, as a gift from Christ.

### **The Church as an Institution is perfectly holy.**

CCC 827 (quoting Bl. Pope Paul VI): “The church is therefore holy, though having sinners in her midst, because she herself has no other life but the life of grace. If they live her life, her members are sanctified; if they move away from her life, they fall into sins and disorders that prevent radiation of her sanctity...”

CCC 823: “The Church, then, is ‘the holy People of God,’ and her members are called ‘saints.’”

### **All are called to be holy.**

LG 40: “Thus it is evident to everyone, that all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of Christian life and the perfection of charity; by this holiness as such a more human manner of living is promoted in this earthly society.”

### **References/Further Reading**

*The Beatitudes:* Matthew 5: 3-12

*The Sermon on the Mount:* Matthew 5-7

*The Fruits of the Holy Spirit:* Galatians 5:22-23

*The Corporal Works of Mercy:* Matthew 25: 31-46

*Catechism of the Catholic Church* – Paragraphs 813-822

*Lumen Gentium* (Vatican II - Dogmatic Constitution on the Church)