



## **5 Starter Facts About Catholicism**

1. The break from other Christian faiths began with the split from Orthodoxy in 1054 over questions of doctrine and the absolute authority and behaviour of the papacy. Today there are more than a billion Catholics in the world and ~92 million in the United States.
2. The hierarchical nature of Catholicism sets it apart from other Christian churches. It is a pyramid with the Pope at the top, followed by cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons, and adherents. The Catholic Church ordains only celibate men to the priesthood because they teach Jesus was male and celibate.
3. According to scriptures, Jesus Christ chose 12 of his disciples to be his Apostles and spread his teachings. Catholics believe the Pope has apostolic succession from Saint Peter, one of the Apostles who is considered to be the first Pope.
4. Catholicism revolves around the seven sacraments: baptism, Eucharist (Holy Communion of bread and wine), confirmation, penance, anointing of the sick, holy orders, and marriage.
5. The Catholic Church opposes contraception, because it interferes with human life and the sacred purpose of intercourse. It also condemns abortion, because it teaches life begins at the moment of conception.

Learn more at:

<https://www.catholic.org/>

<http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

*These five points are not meant to be comprehensive or authoritative. We hope they encourage you to explore this spirituality more deeply and seek out members of this community to learn about their beliefs in action. In understanding our differences we will better understand our common humanity.*

June 2018