

DATE	TOPIC
Q6, Q7, Q9: Who's Who in the Church (Pope, Saints, Mary,...)	
CHURCH AS BODY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eph 1:23 "The church is Christ's body, the completion of him who himself completes all things everywhere." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infinity – circular - integral Christ is the Head of the "Body" of the Church. From him... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and bonds, achieves the growth that comes from God" 	<p>Eph 1:23</p> <p>Colossians 2:19</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pope <p>Jesus asks: "<i>who do people say I am?</i>"... Then he asks: "<i>but who do you say I am?</i>" Simon Peter responds: "<i>you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.</i>" Jesus says: "<i>...flesh & blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.</i>"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thus, Peter can be seen as the 1st "Pope" He was given special authority & a leadership role to continue Christ's mission: To spread Christ's teaching as understood in Scripture, Tradition and Revelation 	<p>Mat 16:13-19</p>
OTHERS IN THE BODY... (read about these in your handouts) Priests, Bishops, Religious, Laity...ie: you & me	
SAINTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communion of Saints called "cloud of witnesses" in Cat What is a saint & why are they important to us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real people who lead holy lives Role models for us/ Heroes We benefit from the grace God has worked through holy people Not perfect people...but they had GREAT desire to do God's will (often at great cost to themselves) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They wrestled tirelessly with their own weaknesses All called to be saints!...all called to do God's will 	<p>Cat 2683-84</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canonization – the procedure the Church uses to <u>name a saint</u> (Not "make" a saint...simply recognizing what God has already done) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process begins after death Life examined for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heroic virtue/ martyrdom Orthodoxy of doctrine (<i>correctness</i> of doctrine) Reputation for holiness Plus – need evidence of miracles after candidate's death as a specific request to the "saint" for help ("proof" they are in heaven & can intercede for us) 	
SAINT MARY...THE MOTHER OF GOD	
<p>A very important Saint to Catholics is St. Mary...the Mother of God</p> <p>Why do we honor Mary?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because God chose her to be the Mother of Jesus...didn't <i>need</i> her...chose her as <i>the dwelling place where his Son & Spirit could dwell among men!</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> we, as "Church" are called to be such a dwelling place too! ..."<i>any friend of yours is a friend of mine</i>" Because She said yes! – the 1st Christian!! "May it be done to me according to your word" because she acts like a "magnifying glass" between us and Jesus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bringing us closer to Him – we see Him more clearly (blessings magnified?) Because she gave our Lord & Savior life and nurtured and cared for Him 	<p>Lk 1:26-38 Cat 721, 492</p> <p>Lk 1:38</p> <p>"Magnificat" Lk 1:46-55</p>

<p>How do we honor Mary?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Devotion”/”honor” not equal to “adoration” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we do not worship Mary or the other saints • worship and adoration is reserved for God alone • honor her by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asking her to pray to God for us...she is an intercessor, like the other saints who are close to God • imitating her virtues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accept God’s will, agree to <i>let God dwell within you!</i> • hear the Word, act upon it with charity/love and a spirit of service 	<p>Cat 971</p> <p>Cat 969, 975</p>
<p>3 things Catholics believe about Mary:</p>	
<p>1. Immaculate Conception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary free from original sin from the moment of her conception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how can this be? ...by the GRACE of God...she didn’t “deserve” it...it was a gift, by the merits of Jesus • but WHY is a better question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uninhibited Mother to all humans...she can nurture and care for us, as she did for the LORD • her womb would hold the LORD – could not be corrupted by sin 	<p>Cat 491-92, 411 Pope Pius IX 1854</p>
<p>2. Perpetual virginity – “ever-virgin”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary conceived Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and she remained a virgin after the birth of Jesus (Holy Spirit <i>overshadows</i> her) • WHY? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consecrated herself totally and freely to the love of God • Preservation of the “sacred vessel” of her womb? (Darlene’s musings) 	<p>Cat 496-510 Mt 1:18; Lk 1:34-35 St Augustine</p>
<p>3. Assumption into heaven</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meaning – she was taken “body & soul” into heaven when she took her last breath...she did not turn to dust in a grave as we will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how can this be?...by the GRACE of God • by WHY is a better question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • just as we said before, her womb held the LORD & could not be corrupted by sin...as the Mother of God neither sin nor the corruption of death was to touch her body or her soul 	<p>Cat 966, 974</p>
<p>ROSARY</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (13th Century) Structured prayer given to St. Dominic de Guzman in prayer by Blessed Virgin Mary for armor against heresies against the Church • includes many of the common Catholic prayers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sign of the cross, Apostle’s Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focuses on God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cycles through the life, ministry, death & resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The life of Mary is intertwined with that of Jesus. 	
<p>DISCUSSION (8:15-8:55)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read the assigned scripture passage (below) once or twice • What stands out or “strikes” you about this passage? (discuss) • What role does St. Mary play in this passage? • What admirable qualities do you see in St. Mary from this passage? • Put yourself in the scene & read the passage one more time.
	<p>1. Luke 1:26-38 (Annunciation) p. 56-57</p>
	<p>2. Luke 1:39-56 (The Visitation) p. 57</p>
	<p>3. Luke 2:1-20 (The Birth of Jesus) p. 58</p>
	<p>4. John 19:17-30 (The Crucifixion of Jesus) p.113-114</p>
<p>DISMISSAL (8:55-9:00) Pray one decade of the Rosary & reflect on the Mystery you discussed.</p>	