

It is only in year one of our era that the term « Catholic » first appeared. It designated a unified Christianity and it also indicated a geographically universal church, that transcended the linguistic, racial and national differences. The sole criterion of the allegiance to Christianity was the communion with both the universal church and archbishop of Rome.

In 1054, after the schism between the Orient and the Occident , the term Catholic was mainly used to identify one who is ruled the Holy See established in Rome (commonly called the Vatican). Since the sixteenth century, the term Roman Catholic refers to the religious organisation that acknowledges the Vatican as the core ecclesial unity and the Pope' s rule.

During the nineteenth century, the Church became more Rome centralised. In 1870, the Vatican I council proclaimed , for particular circumstances, the papal infallibility in terms of proclamation of faith doctrines and moral issues. The council also stated its judicial primacy.

According to the teachings of the Catholic Church, Jesus Christ (who ordered his disciples to spread His Message) is the Revelation embodied. In order to perpetuate the Gospel tradition, the Apostles appointed bishops. Catholics believe in the unity of three in one God :

the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit. Catholicism instructs that the original sin (the disobedience of Adam and Eve which resulted in their exclusion from terrestrial paradise) has turned aside God's humanity but has not fully corrupted men and women and that the grace of God can redeem a sinner.

Catholics are particularly devoted to Mary, mother of God, who according to belief, gave birth after being supernaturally impregnated. They also believe in the mystery of the Immaculate Conception, which means that Mary was conceive exempt of the original sin.

In Québec, there are five archdioceses: Montréal, Québec, Sherbrooke, Rimouski and Gatineau-Hull. There are also nineteen dioceses and three adjacent dioceses.

