





THE EXTENSION OF CHRIST'S MYSTICAL BODY

The term "Mystical Body of Christ" is employed in sacred theology to designate the Catholic Church. Certain theologians, among them the great controversialists Winifred and Cardinal Stanislaus Hosni have used the term body of Christ as a definition of the Church. This practice has been countenanced and encouraged by our Holy Father Pope Pius XII in his

Encyclical *Mystici Corporis*. (Subjectively to be judged on its

names better titled to aid men in appreciation of the Church

flowever, there have been those who thought

Body of Christ applied more properly to denote the organic Church wider in extent than the Catholic Church. These

persons in this world who are in the state of grace, and who are members of the Catholic Church are still members of the

Body of Christ. Some have even feared the application of the name Mystical Body to the Church militant

would in some way imply that the Church is dead and that in pilgrimage among the members of this Body. At

taught that the Catholic Church, militant and the Mystical Body.

We can best understand this attitude by comparing the notions of the Catholic Church with the Protestant Church. The Protestant Church designated as the body of Christ (the same as the Catholic Church) has been defined as the body of Christ. The Protestant Church designated as the body of Christ (the same as the Catholic Church) has been defined as the body of Christ.

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Reverend Beliar has said that the Protestant Church designated as the body of Christ (the same as the Catholic Church) has been defined as the body of Christ.

Conclusion

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of the definition of the Catholic Church. According to the *De*  
*... HifM* the Church is "the gathering of those men who are  
 in the profession of the same Christian faith and in the com-  
 munion of the same Sacraments under the rule of legitimate  
 authority, and particularly of the Roman Pontiff, the one Vicar of Christ

It is not suffice to keep a man within the Church often defined  
 in terms to that of Francis Sylvius. He wrote that the Church is  
 the society of the faithful, ordered and united under one head, Christ,  
 His Vicar on earth, the Roman Pontiff."<sup>3</sup> These formulae  
 apply exclusively to the Church militant of the New Testament. They  
 did not become common in scholastic theology until well into the  
 nineteenth century. In most modern manuals of theology they are  
 like something like "definitions of the Church in the strictest or the  
 most proper sense."<sup>4</sup>

The second type of definition applies to the Church militant since  
 its beginning to the human race, or at least since the time of our first  
 parents. A good example of this type is found in the *De Eucharistia*,  
 of the great Louvain theologian, John B. de Smedt.  
 "The Holy Church is the multitude which rejoices in holy unity, a  
 unity understood not according to a gathering in one land or in one  
 vine, or in any bodily part, but rather in the union of one sign of  
 the Holy Spirit giving life in every place and nation, whether they  
 know each other or not."<sup>5</sup>

Employed by the Cardinal J. J. de Turnemara and  
 was likewise intended to describe the Church militant  
 on earth since the days of our first parents. Suarez,  
 in his *Metaphysics*, Gregory of Valentia, was one of the first  
 to propose a "narrower" definition of the Church.  
 "The Church on earth since the first days of the human  
 race is that multitude of men whom the true worship  
 of God unites together in the knowledge of God and in the  
 unity of the Holy Spirit, and in the communication through faith, hope, and

<sup>3</sup> *De Eucharistia*, 2. Cl. 155; *De Eucharistia* col.  
 1, l. 2; *De Eucharistia* th. 1.

<sup>4</sup> n. 257.

<sup>5</sup> *De Eucharistia* in *of 1523*, p. 1A\*.

*De Eucharistia*, Venice, 1500, Lib. L cap.

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serve one another. The life of charity is incumbent upon all of the  
who pertain to the body of Christ, but among those called upon to exercise the functions of hierarchical ministry - the body is manifestly the society in which this ministry exists by right.

Now you are the members of the Church, first and foremost, and God indeed hath set some in the Church, first Apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly evangelists, after that miracles, then the gifts of healing, governments, kinds of tongues, mountains of speeches.

In the Epistle to the Ephesians, St. Paul speaks of the Church as the body of Christ -

raising him up from the dead, and setting him on high at his right hand in the heavens:

Who is that named not only of this world, but also is that which is above all things; he hath put all things under his feet: and hath made him head of the Church, which is his body, and the fullness of him, which dwelleth in him, and he himself filleth the Church.

St. Paul taught through the incarnation which he termed the Word of God, Christ, who is the divine light of this world, strong in the flesh, and organized in the world to attain through his corporate activity, the fullness of the Church.

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raising him up from the dead, and setting him on high at his right hand in the heavens:

grace is given in the viable Church, through the Apostles and the Evangelists:

... the work of the ministry, for the redifv-

... all meet into the unity, of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of

... the measure of the age of the fulness of Christ.

... children tossed to and fro, and carried about by the wickedness of men, by cunning by which they lie in wait to deceive.

... in charity, we may in all things grow up in him: will die head, even Christ:

... in whom the uhoie body, being compacted: sitteth firm together. ... the operation: in the manner of the body unto the edifying of itself in charity.

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... that He loves it and has saved it: ... the head of the wife: as Christ is the head of the Church - his saving of his body.

... is applied to the Church ... the body of Christ ... Epiair V, the Colossians. St. Paul likewise insets the ... is designated as the body of Christ ... is a minister. ... the Church ...

... in ... St. ... the Church ...

... Gixi, ... is given me towards you. ... supplied ... which the whole body by joints and ... {Gofl ... and compacted, grown unto the ... the Church, live in charity and in peace.

In the ... of the Church are said ... that your bodies are the members



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