



Epic (1:20) - References and Citations

Audio:

1) Our family is made up of every race.

39% Latin America, 24% Europe, 16% Africa, 12% Asia-Pacific, 8% North America, 1% Middle East.ⁱ

2) We are young and old...

Among adult Catholics in the United States 25.7% were born between 1943-1960, 27.2% were born between 1961-1981, and 22.8% born in 1982 or later.ⁱⁱ

3) Rich and poor, men and women...

Worldwide Catholics represent a broad range of income levels, in the United States 29% less than \$30,000, 18.7% \$30,000-\$49,999, 27.9% \$50,000-99,999, and 23.6% more than \$100,000 average annual household income.ⁱⁱⁱ

4) Sinners and saints.

St. Paul reminds us that we have all "sinned and fallen short" (Romans 3:23), but are called to live as Saints (Phil 3:14). St. Augustine of the 4th century reminds us that the Church herself is made up of both sinners (those in need of forgiveness and healing) and saints (those who have conformed their will to God's). Sermon 38 on the New Testament.^{iv}

5) Our family has spanned the centuries and the globe.

The Church has existed continually since the time of the Apostles, and has an unbroken span of 2000 years. The earliest writings regarding the organization of the Church go back to the New Testament and 1st Century Rome. Multiple sources from within and outside the Catholic Church describe the Church in every century.

6) With God's grace, we started hospitals to care for the sick.

"Charity and healthcare centres run in the world by the Church include: 5.269 hospitals, most of them in America (1.399) and Africa (1.367); 16.068 dispensaries, mainly in Africa (5.907); America (4.330) and Asia (2.919); 646 Care Homes for people with Leprosy, mainly in Asia (362) and Africa (229); 15.735 Homes for the elderly, or the chronically ill or people with a disability, mainly in Europe (8.475) and America (3.596); 9.813 orphanages, mainly in Asia (3.473); 10.492 creches, mainly in America (3.153) and in Asia (2.900); 13.065 marriage counselling centres, mainly in Europe (5.676) and America (4.798); 3.169 social rehabilitation centres and 31.182 other kinds of institutions."^v

7) We establish orphanages, and help the poor.

In 2019, the Catholic Church owned and operated "15.735 Homes for the elderly, or the chronically ill or people with a disability, mainly in Europe (8.475) and America (3.596); 9.813 orphanages, mainly in Asia (3.473); 10.492 creches, mainly in America (3.153) and in Asia (2.900); 13.065 marriage counselling centres, mainly in Europe (5.676) and America (4.798); 3.169 social rehabilitation centres and 31.182 other kinds of institutions."^{vi}

8) We are the largest charitable organization on the planet, bringing relief and comfort to those in need.

In the US, some of the largest Charities include Catholic Charities, Food for the Poor, Catholic Relief Services, St. Jude's, and America's Second Harvest who alone total over \$6,000,000,000 in annual aid. Other charities like Father Flanagan's homes, Catholic Medical Mission Board, Covenant House, and countless more run soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and other charitable activities.^{vii}

9) We educate more children than any other scholarly or religious institution.

"In the field of education, the Catholic Church runs 71.305 kindergartens with 7.303.839 pupils; 101.527 primary schools with 34.558.527 pupils; 48.560 secondary schools with 20.320.592 pupils. The Church also cares for 2.345.799 high school pupils, and 2.945.295 university students."^{viii}

10) We developed the scientific method...

"Roger Bacon, a Franciscan who taught at Oxford, was admired for his work in mathematics and optics, and is considered to be a forerunner of modern scientific method." "Like Roger Bacon, Saint Albert [the Great] was careful to note the importance of direct observation in the acquisition of knowledge about the physical world. In De Mineralibus, he explained that the aim of natural science was 'not simply to accept the statements of others, that is, what is narrated by people, but to investigate the causes that are at work in nature for themselves.'"^{ix}

11) ...and the laws of evidence.

See above and also history of Bishop Grosseteste of Lincoln who in the 13th Century sought to perfect scientific experimentation based on the observation of repeatable, material phenomenon.^x

12) We founded the college(university) system.

The oldest universities of Europe, Bologna, Italy founded in 1088, Paris, France founded in 1150, Salamanca, Spain founded in 1218 and the Oxford and Cambridge system in 1209 and 1233 respectively, just to name a few. The University system developed out of a medieval Catholic understanding of liberal arts as well as practical and productive sciences. Today the Catholic Church operates nearly 200 colleges and universities in the United States including Notre Dame, Georgetown, Fordham etc.^{xi}

13) We defend the dignity of all human life, and uphold marriage and family.

"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person- among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life."^{xii}

"A man and a woman united in marriage, together with their children, form a family. This institution is prior to any recognition by public authority, which has an obligation to recognize it. It should be considered the normal reference point by which the different forms of family relationship are to be evaluated...In creating man and woman, God instituted the human family and endowed it with its fundamental constitution. Its members are persons equal in dignity. For the common good of its members and of society, the family necessarily has manifold responsibilities, rights, and duties."^{xiii}

14) Cities were named after our revered saints, who navigated a sacred path before us.

E.g. St. Louis MO, St. Paul MI, St. Augustine, FL, San Antonio TX, San Diego, CA, San Francisco, CA.

15) Guided by the Holy Spirit, we compiled the Bible [I.E. THE NEW TESTAMENT].

The Catholic Church compiled and canonized the New Testament of 27 books at the Council of Hippo in AD 393. It approved the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) at the Council of Laodicea in 363.^{xiv}

16) We are transformed by sacred scripture and sacred Tradition, which have consistently guided us for 2,000 years.

Scripture, as compiled in the Bible and the tradition, as passed on by Apostles, serves as the central sources for the Deposit of Faith protected and promoted by the Magisterium.^{xv}

17) We are the Catholic Church. With over one billion in our family sharing in the sacraments and fullness of Christian faith.

There are over 1.34 billion Catholics in the World, and grow on average of 15-20 million/year from newborns and conversions.^{xvi} As Catholics we share in the 7 Sacraments continually practiced since the earliest ages of the Church. Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick, Penance, Marriage and Holy Orders.

Source: Adherents.com

18) For centuries, we have prayed for you and our world, every hour of every day, whenever we celebrate the mass.

The Church celebrates Mass daily, throughout the world's nearly 150,000 parishes and missions, praying for our world, our leaders, our families, the sick, the deceased, and the special intentions of the faithful

19) Jesus, Himself, laid the foundation for our faith when He said to Peter, the first pope, "You are rock, upon this rock I will build My Church."^{xvii} For over 2,000 years, we have had an unbroken line of shepherds guiding the Catholic Church with love and truth, in a confused and hurting world.

The unbroken lineage of Pope's traces all the way back to St. Peter. Today, Pope Francis is the 266th Bishop of Rome.^{xviii}

20) And in this world filled with chaos, hardship and pain, it's comforting to know that some things remain consistent, true, and strong, our Catholic faith, and the eternal love that God has for all creation.

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Roman 8:38

"The household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth."

- 1 Tim 3:15

21) If you've been away from the Catholic Church, we invite you to take another look. Visit CatholicsComeHome.org today. Ours is one family united in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We are Catholic, Welcome Home.

ⁱ 2010 World Christian Database as cited by Pew Charitable Trust <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2013/02/13/the-global-catholic-population/> see also Pew Research Religious Landscape in America <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/catholic/racial-and-ethnic-composition/> and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Stats <https://www.usccb.org/offices/public-affairs/laity-and-parishes>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.usccb.org/offices/public-affairs/laity-and-parishes> see also <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/catholic/age-distribution/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/religious-tradition/catholic/income-distribution/>

^{iv} <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/160338.htm>

^v Vatican Agenzia Fides www.fides.org/en/news/66809-VATICAN_Catholic_Church_Statistics_2019

^{vi} Vatican Agenzia Fides www.fides.org/en/news/66809-VATICAN_Catholic_Church_Statistics_2019

^{vii} See also Filipino Newspaper Inquirer, <https://usa.inquirer.net/15692/catholic-church-worlds-biggest-charitable-organization>

^{viii} Vatican Agenzia Fides www.fides.org/en/news/66809VATICAN_Catholic_Church_Statistics_2019 See also

<http://cara.georgetown.edu/CARAServices/requestedchurchstats.html>

^{ix} *How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization* by Dr. Thomas Woods, page 94 and following. See also "Science and the Church" Catholic Encyclopedia <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13598b.htm>.

^x "Robert Grosseteste" Catholic Encyclopedia <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07037a.htm>

^{xi} See also The Catholic Encyclopedia, "Universities," Edward A. Pace, <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/15188a.htm>.

^{xii} Catechism of the Catholic Church, Para 2270

^{xiii} Catechism of the Catholic Church, Para 2203-2204

^{xiv} "Canon of the New Testament" Catholic Encyclopedia <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03274a.htm>

^{xv} Also see "Tradition and Magisterium" Catholic Encyclopedia <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/15006b.htm>

^{xvi} Vatican Agenzia Fides www.fides.org/en/news/66809VATICAN_Catholic_Church_Statistics_2019

^{xvii} Matthew 16:18-19. See also "Who Founded your Church" <https://www.catholicscomehome.org/who-started-your-church/>

^{xviii} For a complete list of Pope's see Catholic Encyclopedia <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12272b.htm>