

*Can original Christianity be restored?*

That's much like asking, can a 20 year old youth start his life over as a little baby? He can't. Even if he tried it would be a sure sign of dysfunctional behavior.

The Catholic Church is the visible Body of the Risen Jesus alive among us. Jesus designed His Church as the way for Him to minister His saving work today. He founded His one Church once and for all with His apostles. The Church of Jesus cannot be refounded by man.

Just like the boy Jesus grew in wisdom and knowledge and obedience to His parents, so also the Church. Our 2000 year old Church today is the same growing and maturing mystical body of Christ that was instituted by Jesus. Even secular History shows no real contenders.

Our Catholic Church, being both human and divine, needs regular renewal but it cannot be started over. It is not intended that it should go back to being the Baby Church. Babyhood is done.

Jesus promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit will guide and guarantee His Church and the gates of hell will not overcome it. It will last until He comes again on the clouds of glory.

All vain attempts to get back to baby Christianity are simply human institutions, and in the true sense, not churches at all. Only those Christian organizations that gather around a bishop in true apostolic succession can rightly be called churches. Of these, only those Churches that accept the leadership of St. Peter, still active in the Bishop of Rome, have the fullness and guarantee given the apostolic Church. Only the Catholic Church, warts and all, is the full and original, still growing up, Church of Jesus who is alive among us today.