

### **How can I be sure of what Jesus really revealed?**

There is much ear tickling entertainment in pop media today that pretends to be history or science. A frequent underlying theme is about planting deliberate doubts concerning who Jesus was and what Jesus said. As Catholics we need to be aware of the questionable sources they use. We should be aware that the chain of logic they use may not be as scientific as they would like us to believe. They write for popular consumption and ratings, and frequently to promote a secular agenda. If objective truth is a consideration at all it is often only for minimal credibility.

More important, as Catholics, we need to understand the logic of our own beliefs and the authentic historical records we build our faith upon. Writings from the earliest Church fathers, who actually knew the apostles, show that what Jesus Christ revealed to mankind is the same as Catholic teaching today. They show that the God-given job, to protect and hand on the Good News of Jesus, in the guarantee of the Holy Spirit, resides in the apostolic leadership of this one, holy, Catholic Church.

The gnostic, heretical, and ancient teachings so prominent as, “discoveries,” in recent media, are not unknown to Catholic scholars. We were there when they happened. Such pretensions are not, and never could be considered authentic Christianity by an honest, thinking person with accurate information. There was no race between two early forms of real Christianity as popular media likes to portray it. Most of the supposed contenders came later in history anyway. It is by the Holy Spirit that, even 2000 years later, this original Catholic Church is much bigger than all other Christian and pseudo-Christian groups together.

So..., how can we know the actual teaching of Jesus? No problem for those with faith. Along with the earliest Christians we can safely accept what is handed down to us in the one, universal and apostolic Church. We can confidently believe that Jesus is eternal God, born in time of the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, That this Jesus is the fullness of God's revelation for our everlasting fulfillment, that He entrusted His authority and truth to His Church founded through His apostles with the guarantee of God the Holy Spirit, and That this Holy Church, led by recovering sinners, cannot error in faith or moral teaching, nor can it pass away until He comes again in glory. The only Church that can claim an unbroken tie to St. Peter and the apostles is our own Catholic Church.

We people of faith need never be afraid of honest historical or scientific investigation. Faith, science and reason are one because God is the source of them all.

The Church is the mystical Body of Christ, risen and alive among us. We can always know the true teaching of Jesus by listening to the teaching of Jesus alive in His Holy Church.