

Catechism Excerpt 3: Ineligibility to Hold Offices, and Nominal Catholic Churches

From *The Catholic Catechism*¹
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Non-members of the Catholic Church cannot hold offices in the Catholic Church

1. Non-members of the Catholic Church cannot hold offices in the Catholic Church. Hence, idolaters, formal heretics, formal schismatics, major excommunicates, pre-catechumens, catechumens, and all other non-members of the Catholic Church cannot hold offices in the Catholic Church.

St. Paul says, “Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ and the dispensers of the mysteries of God. Here now it is required among the dispensers that a man be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:1-2)

The Prophet Osee says, “Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will reject thee, that thou shalt not do the office of priesthood to me.” (Osee 4:6)

2. Presumed formal heretics and presumed formal schismatics are presumed to not hold offices in the Catholic Church.
3. Hence an apparent officeholder who is an idolater, a formal heretic, a presumed formal heretic, a formal schismatic, or a presumed formal schismatic does not hold the office or is presumed to not hold the office even if all Catholics believe that he holds the office. If any of these things apply to an apparent officeholder before he was given an office or elected to it, then he does not get the office or is presumed to not get the office. But if any of these things apply to an officeholder after he holds the office, then he automatically loses the office or is presumed to have automatically lost the office. Therefore he must be denounced as a non-office holder or a presumed non-office holder and treated as an idolater or formal heretic or formal schismatic.
4. Because minor excommunicates are members of the Catholic Church, they can hold offices but cannot legally, and in some cases validly, use them.

Nominal Catholic churches

5. A church’s official teachings to its flock or the manifest faith of the head of the church is what determines if the church is Catholic or not.

¹ This catechism is not yet completed. When it is, the excerpts will be removed since they will all be contained in the book titled *The Catholic Catechism*, which will serve as a Profession of Faith or abjuration.

Official teachings of the church

6. A church's official teachings consist of the following:
 1. Its catechism
 2. Any other teachings that the flock is told that they must consent to by the head of the church
7. If an official teaching of the church doubts or denies a basic dogma or a secondary dogma, the church is a non-Catholic church. For example, if one or more of the following heresies or idolatries is an official teaching of the church, then the church is a non-Catholic church:

The Arian heresy, which states that the incarnate Jesus is only man and thus not also God. This heresy denies the basic dogma that the incarnate Jesus is God and man. In the early days of the Church, churches that held the Arian heresy were known as Arian churches.

The heresy that non-members of the Catholic Church can be in the way of salvation.

The heresy that Moslems believe in and worship the true God, which denies the basic dogma that Moslems do not believe in and worship the true God.

The heresy that God created men to be homosexuals and thus the homosexual inclination is not sinful.

The heresies that the death penalty and wars are intrinsically sinful. These heresies deny the basic and natural-law dogmas that the justified use of the death penalty and war are ordained by God as good and necessary things in order to preserve law and order and punish sinners.

The heresy that the Old Covenant is still in force during the New Covenant era, which denies the secondary dogma that the Old Covenant ended and was replaced by the New Covenant when Christ died on the cross.

The heresy that the Holy Eucharist is only bread and wine and thus not the body and blood of Christ, which denies the secondary dogma that the Holy Eucharist is Christ's body and blood under the appearances of bread and wine.

8. A church's images that are public and manifest are official teachings of the church because they convey a message to the flock.
9. Hence churches that are notoriously desecrated with images of devils, idols, false gods, pagans, heretics, schismatics, vice, immodesty, pornography, or grotesque deformity are non-Catholic churches.
10. If an official teaching of a church doubts or denies a deeper dogma and the dogma has been promulgated to the flock, then the church is a non-Catholic church. If the deeper dogma has not been promulgated to the flock, then the church is a Catholic church.

Manifest faith of the head of the church

11. The head of a church is a cleric (usually a simple priest) but can also be a monsignor, bishop, archbishop, or cardinal.

12. The faith of the head of a church is the faith of the church if it is manifested to the whole flock.
13. If the head of a church doubts or denies a basic or secondary dogma and it is manifest to the whole flock, then the church is a non-Catholic church. For example, if one of the following heresies of the head of a church is manifest to the whole flock, then the church is a non-Catholic church. (See Point 7, p. [2](#))
14. If so-called Catholics who are manifest idolaters, manifest formal heretics, or manifest presumed formal heretics are not denounced and expelled from the church, then the head of the church becomes a manifest idolater or formal heretic and thus his church becomes a non-Catholic church.
15. If it is manifest to the flock that the head of the church does not denounce a superior who he knows is a formal heretic or a presumed formal heretic and avoid him in religious matters, then the head of the church is a formal heretic either by sins of omission and association even if he does not believe in the heresy or by sins of commission if he too believes in the heresy. Hence his church becomes a non-Catholic church.
16. If the doubt or denial of a deeper dogma by the head of the church is made manifest to the whole flock, then the church is still a Catholic church until the flock has proof that the head of the church is culpable or inculpable. If the flock discovers that he is culpable, then the church becomes a non-Catholic church. If the flock discovers that he is inculpable and thus he abjures his heresy, then the church remains a Catholic church. For example,
 1. If the head of the church denies the deeper dogma that the incarnate Jesus has two wills, a divine will and a human will, his church remains a Catholic church unless 1) his heresy is manifest to the flock, 2) the flock knows the deeper dogma, 3) the flock denounces him as a heretic, and 4) he does not abjure his heresy, at which point his church would become a non-Catholic church.
 2. If the head of the church denies the deeper dogma that non-members of the Catholic Church cannot hold offices and refers to a superior who he knows is a formal heretic or a presumed formal heretic as an officeholder, his church remains a Catholic church unless 1) his heresy is manifest to the flock, 2) the flock knows the deeper dogma, 3) the flock denounces him as a heretic, and 4) he does not abjure his heresy, at which point the church would become a non-Catholic church.

Other factors

17. A member of a Catholic church who holds or teaches a heresy must be denounced as a heretic and reported to his superior by those who know about his heresy. And if he is a formal heretic or a presumed formal heretic, he must be avoided in religious matters. But if he is a presumed material heretic, he must be admonished; and if he does not abjure, then he is a formal heretic and thus must be avoided in religious matters.
18. While non-Catholics who were never Catholic are allowed to attend the Mass of the Catechumens in a Catholic church, they do not adhere to the church and thus the

faithful are banned from being in religious communion with them. Hence their presence in a church does not make it a non-Catholic church.

19. Whereas, those who were members of the church and then expelled for idolatry, heresy, or schism and thus are under a major excommunication are not allowed to even enter the church, let alone attend the Mass of the Catechumens.

All members of a non-Catholic church are formal schismatics

20. All persons, and thus even infants, who are members of a non-Catholic church are formal schismatics for adhering to a non-Catholic church even if they think it is a Catholic church and think they are Catholic. In this case, inculpable ignorance does not excuse.
21. When a Catholic church becomes a non-Catholic church, members of the church must leave it or become formal schismatics. And they would also become idolaters or formal heretics, at least by sins of omission and association, for remaining in an idolatrous or heretical church if they know or should know about the church's idolatries or heresies.

For the glory of God; in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael, St. Joseph, Ss. Joachim and Anne, St. John the Baptist, the other angels and saints; and for the salvation of men

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