

When Thinking Of Major Catholic Doctrines

WESTERN (ROMAN) CATHOLICS FOCUS ON:

God as One
(but also three)

Jesus as a human
(who is also Divine)

Unity.
Direct connection with the Pope.

Mary as Virgin. We relate to her
human experiences.

Model: Lord's Supper;
down to earth atmosphere;
rational, clear messages;
more use of reason;
very frugal use of symbols;
focus on the here and now;
social justice issues;
beauty in simplicity;
use of various musical
instruments
in the liturgy.

More linear;
either-or;
prefer philosophical clarity
to poetic synthesis.

St. Peter

BYZANTINE (e.g. UKRAINIAN) CATHOLICS FOCUS ON:

God as three persons
(but also one).

Jesus as a Divine person
(who is also human)

Diversity. Connection with Pope
through intermediate structures
such as SYNODS.

Mary as THEOTOKOS or Mother
of God. We stand in awe before
the cosmic implications.

Model: Heavenly Liturgy;
cosmic realities;
mystery; awe;
subconscious, holistic,
more use of senses;
repetition as a way into the deeper self;
focus on eschatology
i.e. - heaven on earth;
beauty in its fullness;
liturgies sung in their entirety,
but without any instruments.

More symbolic;
more paradoxical;
both-and;
prefer poetic wholeness to
philosophical clarity.

St. Andrew

~ TRINITY ~

~ CHRIST ~

~ CHURCH ~

~ MARY ~

~ LITURGY ~

~ THINKING ~



*Eastern and Western Catholics have different mentalities, they
emphasize different aspects, but they hold the same Catholic Faith.
EASTERN AND WESTERN CATHOLICS DO NOT CONTRADICT
EACH OTHER. THEY COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER.*

Different - Yet The Same

Two Traditions, But One Catholic Church

ROMAN RITE TODAY

There is a more relaxed feeling, very down to earth, using a lot of contemporary music. Liturgy has the feel of a shared meal.
Emphasis: God is here with us, so go and live this out in the world.

New Churches are usually built in a very simple style, with little adornment, and only a few pieces of art, to fit into the modern world and reflect modern tastes.



Emphasis: God loves us the way we are, and our current styles and fashions can give glory to God, just as past styles did.

BYZANTINE RITE TODAY

The use of dramatic music and actions tries to lift people up to experience a 'taste of Heaven'.
Emphasis: This is what God has in store for us in Heaven, so go and live this out in the world right now.

Even new churches with modern lines usually have domes and a lot of icons, emphasizing that traditions which the Church developed over the centuries are still meaningful today in the modern world.



Emphasis: God has been with us through the centuries. Even though things change, God's love - and our response - are always the same, yesterday and today.

~ LITURGY ~

~ CHURCH BUILDINGS ~

Contemporary artists are encouraged to let their individual experience of God come through their art. This encourages creativity and artistic freedom, but cuts down on the common ownership and understanding of this religious art by others.



Emphasis: Many people have their own understanding of God, and what God's love means for us.

Icons express the public teaching of the Church. The individual artist's ideas are secondary. Iconographers have a somewhat limited freedom, but the basic message of salvation in the icon is more easily grasped by others.



Emphasis: There are things about God's love which we have all experienced and understand together.

~ CHURCH ART ~

**EASTERN AND WESTERN CATHOLICS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
AND RESPECT EACH OTHER.**

We have the same Catholic faith, but we express it in different ways.