

Patriarchates and Churches of the Catholic Church

As Jesus commissioned the apostles to make disciples of all nations, the early Church grew out from Jerusalem. It experienced other traditions, cultures, customs, languages, art forms, architecture and music.

All the churches of the Catholic Church are one and the same in their *unity of faith*, celebration of the seven mysteries, and communion with bishop of Rome and hierarchy.

Catholics share three essential aspects of faith:

- **Profession of Faith**
- **Mysteries / Sacraments**
- **Unity with Bishop of Rome (*The Pope*)**

There are 22 autonomous churches. Each church celebrates the faith as handed on by one of the six major rites of the Catholic Church:

Jerusalem					
Patriarchates					
Western	Eastern Catholic Churches				
Rome	Antioch	Chaldea	Alexandria	Armenia	Constantinople
	<i>West Syriac</i>	<i>East Syriac</i>			
Roman	<i>Maronite</i> Syriac Malankar	Chaldean Malabar	Coptic Ethiopian	Armenian	Albanian Bulgarian Byelorussian Greek Hungarian Ital-Albanina Melkite Romanina Russian Ruthenian Slovak Ukrainian Yugoslav

What is a Rite: A universal community of faith founded on or by an apostle and its own patriarch, bishops and clergy having unique spiritual and cultural traditions and way of life which has converted an entire people to Jesus Christ. Therefore, applying the definitions, the Maronite Church is a universal community of faith of the Antiochene-Edessan-Monastic tradition, founded by Peter and developed by Maron and his disciples, which is guided by its Patriarch and bishops, who are shepherding peoples of many different nations and cultures in the teaching of Jesus Christ.



Antiochene Cross:

- 3 horizontal bars signify the unity of bishops, patriarch and pope - also unity of the Triune God.
- Syriac poets refer to the cross as the Tree of life.