



The Apostles

The Church has four chief marks by which it may be known that it is the true Church. The Church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. The first three marks are relatively understandable. But what does Apostolic mean? It means that the Church was apostolic in its origin, “organized by the Apostles chosen by Christ.” The Church was founded by Christ and He remains the Head of the Mystical Body, but He left it to His Apostles to organize and run it. From his many followers, Christ chose *twelve of them (whom also He named Apostles): Simon whom He surnamed Peter, and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who is called Zelotes and Jude, the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, who was the traitor* (Luke 6: 13-16). All came from Galilee except Judas. Most were humble laborers before they were chosen for their sublime office.

The Church is Apostolic “because what the Church teaches now is essentially what was taught by the Apostles.” Jesus taught and guided the Apostles three years so they would be prepared for their vocation. The Church is Apostolic because “there has been an unbroken historical transmission of episcopal powers through ordination, from the Apostles to all the bishops in communion with the Bishop of Rome today.” The word *Apostle* means “sent” or “commissioned.” Jesus gave the Apostles the assignment to go *into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature* (Mark 16:15). There were signs by which they would be known: they would cast out devils, speak in tongues, be able to pick up serpents without being harmed, drink deadly drinks that would not hurt them, and cure the sick.

The Acts of the Apostles gives a “short view of the first establishment of the Christian Church.” It primarily highlights the mission of St. Peter and St. Paul but it helps us to understand the challenges faced by all the Apostles in their spreading of the Faith.

(Sources and Quotations: [My Catholic Faith](#), [The Concise Catholic Dictionary](#), [Pocket Catholic Dictionary](#))