

When Thinking Of Major Catholic Doctrines

WESTERN (ROMAN) CATHOLICS FOCUS ON:

The Oneness of God,
who is also three Persons.

~ TRINITY ~

The Humanity of Christ invites us,
but He is also Divine.

~ CHRIST ~

The Pope is the guarantor of unity.
Dioceses are directly under his
jurisdiction.

~ CHURCH ~

Mary as Virgin and Mother.
We relate to her sharing
in the earthly life of Jesus.

~ MARY ~

EASTERN CATHOLICS FOCUS ON:

God as three Persons,
who are also One.

The Divinity of Christ inspires us,
but he is also human.

Bishops in SYNODS (in communion)
with the Pope guarantee
the unity of the Church.

Mary as THEOTOKOS or Mother
of God since Christ is God.
She stands at the head
of all of God's creation.

Model: Lord's Supper;
down to earth atmosphere;
clear messages;
with simple words;
very frugal use of symbols;
focus on the here and now;
beauty in simplicity;
use of various musical
instruments in the liturgy.

~ LITURGY ~

Model: Heavenly Liturgy;
cosmic realities;
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 from beginning to end – the
human voice is the most important instrument.

More linear;
either – or;
often prefer juridical,
philosophical clarity
to poetic synthesis.

~ THINKING ~

More symbolic;
more paradoxical;
both – and;
prefer poetic synthesis to
philosophical analysis.

St. Peter

Social justice issues
flow from Christ's
humanity.
We act towards one another
as Jesus of Nazareth did.



St. Andrew

Social justice issues
flow from the communion
of the Trinity.
The Trinitarian community
of love is a model for us.

Eastern and Western Catholics approach, teach and celebrate their faith differently, but they share the same Catholic Faith.

EASTERN AND WESTERN CATHOLICS DO NOT CONTRADICT EACH OTHER. THEY COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER.

*The Catholic Church includes not only the large Roman Church, but also many **self-governing Eastern Catholic Churches**: Armenian, Chaldean, Coptic, Geez (Ethiopian-Eritrean), Maronite, Syrian, Syro-Malabar, Syro-Malankara and a number of Churches of the Byzantine-Constantinopolitan family.