

# Ecumenism

## VIDEO LINK

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5G\\_6I4DIIE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5G_6I4DIIE)

## GOAL SUMMARY

The goal of this session is to deepen young people's understanding of the relationship between the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations. Grounded in the understanding that Christ founded the Catholic Church and has given her all the tools to continue his mission, youth can appreciate what that is good and true in every other Christian denomination and work toward the goal of true ecumenism, which is to fulfil Jesus' prayer in John 17:21 that his followers "may all be one."

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## VIDEO SUMMARY

In this video, Fr. Mike uses an analogy of shipbuilding to explain that Jesus established the Catholic Church and how other Christian denominations are related to the Catholic Church. The analogy is that the Church is like a ship with a master shipbuilder (God the Father) and captain (Jesus, God the Son). The captain assembled a crew (the Apostles), named a first mate (Peter) in order to get the human race to our destination (heaven). The captain sent the crew sailing with everything they would need (Scripture, ability to interpret Scripture, sacraments, etc.). Through the years, the crew and passengers changed, and they weren't always perfect, but the destination stayed the same. At different times people decided they wanted to build their own ship in the middle of the ocean, so they took the materials from the first ship and built a new ship.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Considering the ship analogy Fr. Mike used and applying it to the Church, how is the Church able to stay on track to her destination (heaven) even when there may be poor leaders serving in important roles or a poor crew?
2. When Fr. Mike's friend was converting, he told Fr. Mike that he was sad to leave good things from his old church. Fr. Mike told him that everything he loved about his old church he would find in the Catholic Church. Do you agree with the friend or Fr. Mike?
3. How does knowing that the Catholic Church contains the fullness of the truth and means of grace from Jesus Christ impact your view of the Church?
4. What are some things the Catholic Church has in common with other denominations?
5. The goal of ecumenism is for the followers of Jesus Christ fulfill Jesus' prayer in John 17:51 that we remain one. How can we become more united with other Christians without leaving behind the fullness of what Jesus has given us in the Catholic Church?

## SEND

Close with a prayer for Christian unity: (from catholic.org)

*Lord Jesus Christ, you have called us to be your one Church. Make us one in our faith and hope, and one in your loving service. Make us one in worship and in daily living. Lord Jesus, send your Spirit to make us one, as you want us to be.*