

Why I Am Catholic

Second chances

Another reason I am Catholic is that we are a church of reconciliation and reconnecting. We are a church of forgiveness and second chances . . . and hundredth chances. As long as I am breathing, I still have a chance to get closer to Jesus and to become more involved in the His church. Yes we have high standards—and that is another reason I am Catholic—but we also are a Church that continually works at overcoming past hurts and being an instrument of God's healing.

We are a very human church and our priests and nuns and lay leaders are all VERY HUMAN. Over the years we have hurt people in small ways and big ways. By what we have said and what we have done. We are called to be people who offer healing and at times we don't. For all kinds of reasons that right now aren't important. What is important is we still can be ambassadors and agents of healing. God can use imperfect and wounded people to offer his healing, hope, and forgiveness.

Christmas is one of those times of Homecoming when we have the opportunity to say "I'm sorry" and "welcome home." In the United States, we have approximately 60 million Catholics and 30 million former and fallen away Catholics. This Christmas we pray they will give us a second chance (or a hundredth) and allow us to heal the hurts we have caused and the hurts that the heartbreaks of life have caused. Jesus is still working in His Church to heal, to forgive, to love, and to bring new birth.