

May 2026

# VIA FIDELIS: THE FAITHFUL WAY


# UNDERSTAND THE FAITH

[charlestdiocese.org/via-fidelis](http://charlestdiocese.org/via-fidelis)

**UNDERSTAND THE FAITH | MONTHLY ACTIVITY**

**VIA FIDELIS: THE FAITHFUL WAY** May | Marian Apparition

Learn about a particular Marian apparition, such as at Lourdes or Fatima.

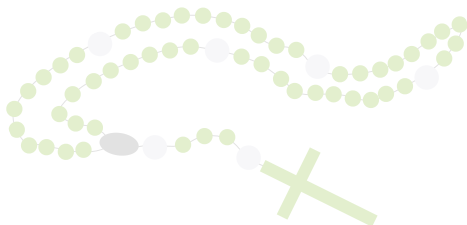


[charlestdiocese.org/via-fidelis](http://charlestdiocese.org/via-fidelis)

## A CHURCH THAT TEACHES

Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church  
85-90, 100, 890-891, 897-900, 940, 1262-1274, 1279-1280

- Through the sacrament of Holy Orders, the work of the Apostles is carried on with the Bishops as their successors
- The authentic interpretation of the the Deposit of Faith takes place through the Magisterium, or teaching office of the Church
- Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this living teaching office is exercised by the Pope, who is the successor of St. Peter and Bishop of Rome, and the bishops in communion with him
- This office can be exercised infallibly (or without error) in doctrinal proclamations (regarding faith or morals) by the Pope or by the entire College of Bishops with the Pope (especially in an ecumenical council)
- It can also be exercised infallibly by the Pope and Bishops in their “ordinary Magisterium” when there is agreement on the definitiveness of a doctrine
- Supported by the Magisterium, all members of the Church, albeit in different ways, are called to share the faith with others and “make disciples of all nations” (see Mt 28:19)
- Through faith in Christ and Baptism one becomes a member of the Church, the People of God
- By virtue of their Baptism, all the faithful are given a share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ
- The laity live this in away fitting the “secular” (or ‘everyday’) nature of their way of life
- The laity, therefore, have a particular calling to both holiness and the apostolate, being sent out to bring Christ to the world and everyday life



## Feasts & Solemnities

### MAY 2: ST. ATHANASIUS, BISHOP

St. Athanasius is known as the great defender of Jesus’ true divinity during a period of heated division within the Church. As bishop of Alexandria in Egypt, St. Athanasius came into conflict with other influential Church leaders and several emperors. His staunch defense of the teachings of the Council of Nicaea led to his exile from Alexandria on five separate occasions.

### MAY 14: ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE

St. Matthias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot (who had betrayed Christ). Chosing him is one of the first things the Apostles do after Jesus’ ascension (Acts 1:15-26). This is the first example of a successor to one of the Apostles. Today, our bishops stand as successors of the Apostles, and the Holy Father is the successor to their leader, St. Peter.

### MAY 17: ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Ascension of the Lord is celebrated 40 days after Easter (see Acts 1:3) and traditionally falls on a Thursday (since Easter is on a Sunday). In most of the United States, the celebration is transferred to the following Sunday. By ascending with his resurrected body, Jesus gives us hope of one day sharing in heavenly communion with the Father.

### MAY 24: PENTECOST

Pentecost literally means “fifty” and takes place 50 days after Easter. In the Acts of the Apostles, the first Christian Pentecost coincides with the Jewish feast of Pentecost (*Shavout*, meaning “weeks” in Hebrew), at which the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai is commemorated. The descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost shows the enduring presence of God with his Church as the one who gives her life and inspires her action. In the sacrament of confirmation, we share in a special way in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to help us carry out the mission of the Church: to spread and defend the faith as witnesses.

### MAY 25: THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

Mary has many titles, and there are different days these are commemorated. She is the Mother of God by conceiving and giving birth to Jesus, and she is our mother, too, because we are united to Christ in baptism. Mary is a model of true discipleship for the Church. As “Mother of the Church,” she exemplifies the motherhood that the Church exercises. Just as Mary enables Christ to be present in the world through the Incarnation, so too the Church’s mission, as the body of Christ, is to enable Christ’s continued presence in the world.

### May 31: SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

The doctrine of the Trinity tells us who God is. There is one God in three distinct persons. These three persons are in real relation to each other. Yet, they each fully possess the one divine nature. This is why we invoke the one divine “name” when making the sign of the cross (i.e. “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”).