

The Catholic Church is composed of two traditions which resulted from the division of the Roman Empire: the Western tradition which established its liturgy and rite from Rome, and, the Eastern tradition which established its rite from the eastern empire centered in Constantinople. Thus, one of the distinctive features of the two rites is linguistic, with the Western using Latin as its language of communication while the Eastern was Greek in its orientation. The faith of both the Eastern and Western traditions are exactly the same, with the Pope leading both parts of the Church in terms of pronouncements on faith. However, the way in which the faith is celebrated in liturgy and sacramental traditions is different. Both traditions are essential in the Catholic Church.

