



# **Catholicity: A Sermon, Preached in the First Parish Church, Cambridge, Mass (Classic Reprint)**

*Samuel McChord Crothers*

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Excerpt from Catholicity: A Sermon, Preached in the First Parish Church, Cambridge, Mass

Not the least inspiring article of the ancient Christian creed was that which expressed faith in the "Holy Catholic Church." It meant more than faith in a great spiritual ideal: it expressed the belief that that ideal was actually being realized. It was as if a man should say, "I believe in justice and the higher civilization, and then should add, and I believe in my country." That would be saying that, for him, justice and civilization had been embodied in the institutions of his own dearly loved land.

So the believer, after expressing his faith in the great verities of religion, adds triumphantly, "And, more than that, I believe in my fellow-believers. I believe not only in the spiritual life, but also in all those who are trying to live such a life. I believe in their sincerity, in their devotion, and in their final victory. I believe not only in the good cause, but also in the army that is fighting for it. I am willing to take a lowly place in that army, to share its hardships, and to submit to its discipline."

Religion thus becomes not merely a private interest, but a public concern, capable of being incorporated in a worthy form. It has not only a spirit, but a body.

One can scarcely fail to notice a revival among us of this catholic temper.

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