

Congratulations! It's A Church A good father does not forget his children when he goes away. He wants to ensure that they will be taken care of in his absence. Jesus was the same way with Him dying for each one of us personally. Jesus is the shepherd and we are His flock. He wanted to continue to take care of us. God the Father would send the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, which is considered to be the "birthday" of the Church. It was at this point that the Church began her mission to the entire world. First Jesus told Peter in front of the other apostles, "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church." (Mt 16:18) Because of this statement we know that the Church is of a divine origin and no other society can claim that it is guided by the Holy Spirit. The beginnings of the Church can be found in the promises to Adam. With Abraham, God made a covenant with His chosen people, the Jews. Then with Moses He renewed that covenant by giving us the Ten Commandments. The Church is alive. He has called each one of us through our baptism to be that living member of the Church. Jesus' intention was clear when He said: "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men." (Mk 1:17) Since the first Pentecost, the Church has grown and flourished to every part of the world. We are a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation . . . Once you were no people, but now you are God's People." (1Peter 2:9-10) -Sherrie Clutts DRE