

Most American have a very shallow view of the beginnings of the Christian Church. I am sure I will make mistakes here, but most of us believe (I did) that the Catholic Church was the first church, it was started by Peter, and that all other denominations are an off shoot of that. Not so.

Most of the Apostles started a church in a different region. Thomas in India. Bartholomew and Thaddeus in the regions joining Asia and Eastern Europe. I don't remember the rest but churches started by the Apostles are the only churches recognized by some Orthodox churches as 'real' churches...the rest are cults in their eyes.

Many of the churches were organized before the Catholic Church. Armenia was actually the first nation to declare itself a Christian nation and developed an written language just so it could record the scriptures. At the meeting at Nicene the Armenian Church separated from many churches because it did not agree with several things decided at that point....like moving Christmas to the current date to hide it among the pagan rituals at Winter Solstice...a move initiated to save lives. They celebrate on January 6th with many of the other Orthodox Churches.

And by the way...you know that line about the holy catholic church in the historic Apostles Creed "I believe in the holy catholic church: the communion of saints: " ...it is not referring to the Catholic Church as we think of it today. Catholic, not capitalized, means universal...that all Christian Churches are one. You are saying that you believe that all Christian Churches are one in the eyes of God.