



The Didache (written circa 80-90 CE and discovered in a monastery in Constantinople) is perhaps the earliest text in the collection of writings known by the Apostolic Fathers. Its full title originally was: "*The Lord's Instruction to the Gentiles Through the Twelve Apostles.*" The author and place of origin are unknown; however believed to be from the area of Syria or Egypt.

It is a collection of instructions given by Jesus, through the twelve apostles, to provide catechesis for new Gentile converts prior to baptism. The text is particularly important in providing insight into the life of an early Jewish-Christian community (the early Christian Church), including its baptismal and Eucharistic liturgy, as well as offering evidence for the evolution of leadership structures in at least one such early Christian community.

There are four sections in the little work: a moral catechesis on "The Two Ways," a liturgical instruction on baptism, fasting, prayer, and the Eucharist, on bishops and deacons (priests are not mentioned), on Sunday worship, and an eschatological (end-of-times) treatise.

So, how does this first century document (believed to have been written within some 50-60 years following the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ) apply to the Christian/Catholic Church today?

OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION CATHOLIC CHURCH (downstairs religious education classroom area)

Friday, March 8, 2019 - 7 p.m.