



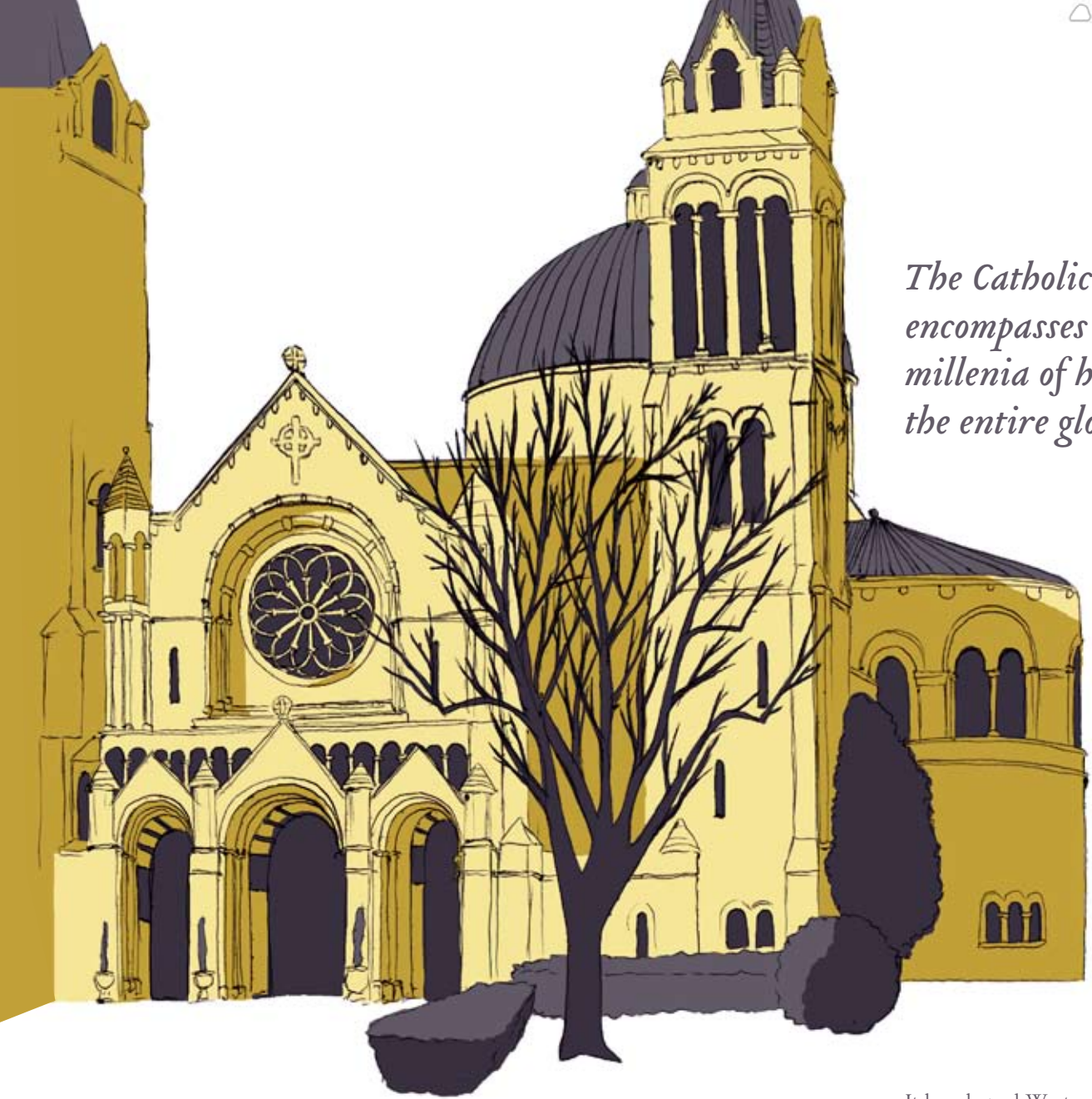
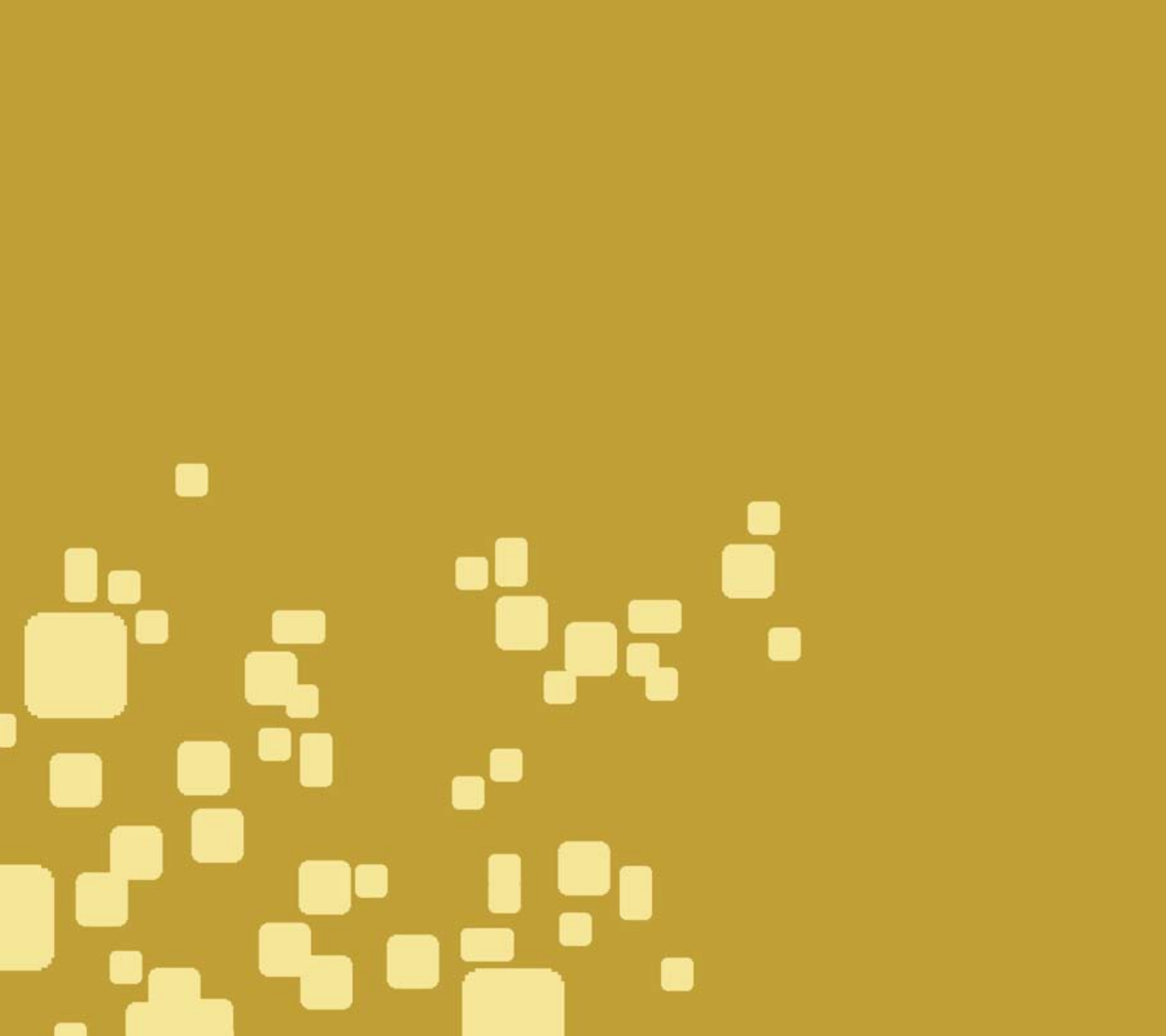


# *Communion of Saints*

A Roman Catholic Apology



Written and Illustrated by Christine Board



*The Catholic Church encompasses nearly two millenia of history and spans the entire globe.*

It has shaped Western society since before the fall of the Roman Empire and continues to influence world affairs.



*The Church was a bastion of education and philosophy at a time when the Western world was in shambles.*

Nearly every question that can be asked about Christianity has at some point had a brilliant Catholic mind focused on answering it.



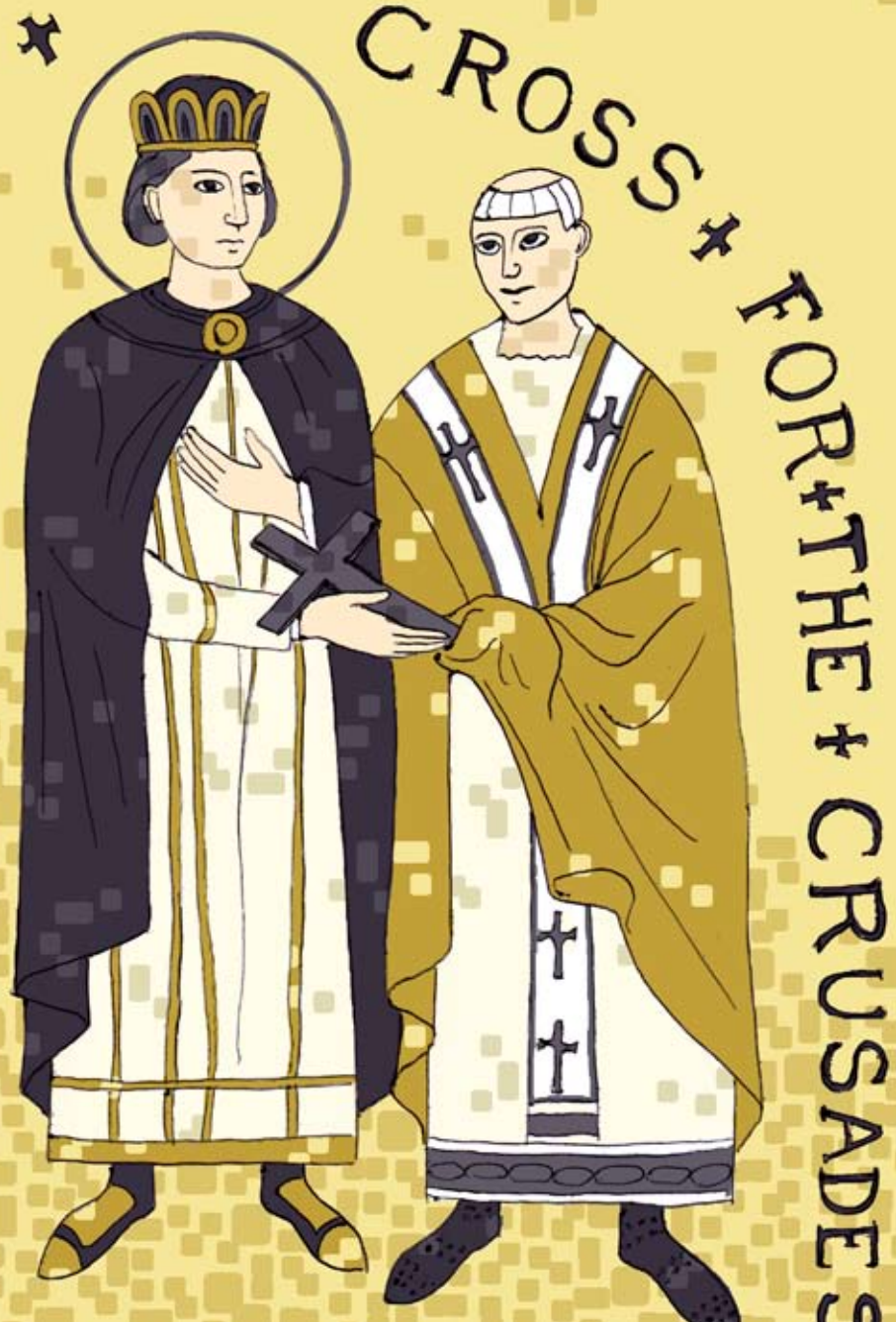


Some of the most extraordinary people in history acted within or through the Catholic Church.

*Many of them are remembered as Saints.*

*The Church has also been responsible for bigotry, warmongering, and greed.*

Several of the darkest parts of Western history were initiated in the name of Catholicism.



*As with any earthly organization, there are flaws that have yet to be fixed.*

These flaws have driven many people to leave Catholicism, particularly in recent years, as religious affiliation becomes more fluid.



*One in ten Americans is a former Catholic.*

There are nearly as many ex-Catholics as there are Southern Baptists, America's next largest religious denomination.



Some see Catholics as exclusionary and elitist. Others are troubled by the history of the Church, including its recent history. The Church's hierarchical structure, its treatment of women, concerns of sexuality, morality, and politics—

*these are all issues that drive people away from Catholicism.*



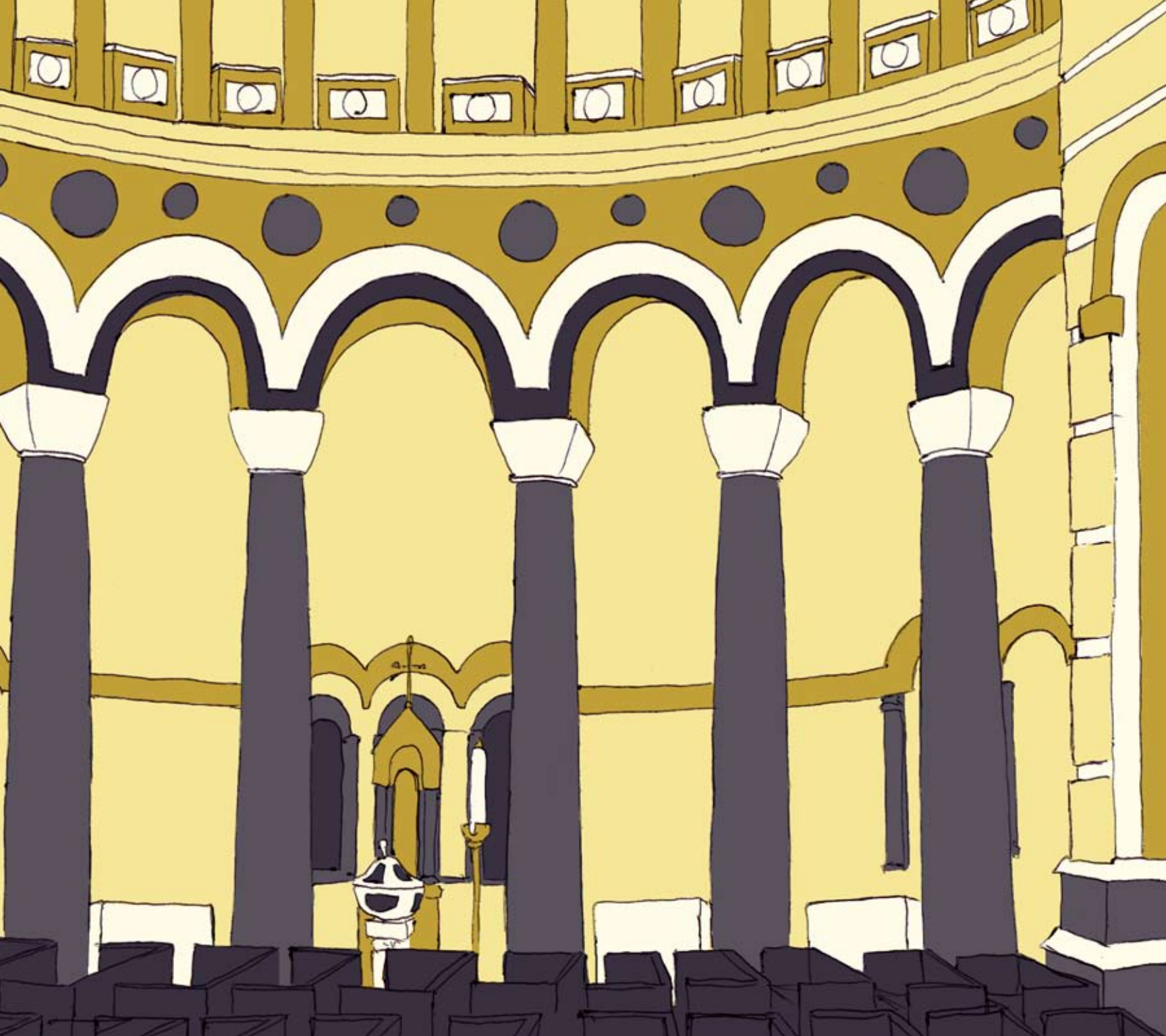
Doctrine can be another stumbling block.

*To accept the limits of reason and allow faith to take over is a difficult—even impossible—task for many people.*

Others are simply ignorant of modern beliefs and practices. Many non-Catholics know little about the Church's history after the Protestant Reformation; an intelligent person can graduate from college thinking that the Catholic Church still sells indulgences.

*But there are still those who come to Catholicism.*

Some are connecting with a Catholic tradition in their family history. Some are forging a new family with a Catholic spouse. Some are searching for a religious identity separate from that of their childhood. Some are simply attracted to the history, work, or community of the Catholic Church.



*Entering a religion is like  
entering a relationship.*

To do so with the expectation of future change is almost always a mistake. You must be at peace with the other party as they are, not as you wish them to be.



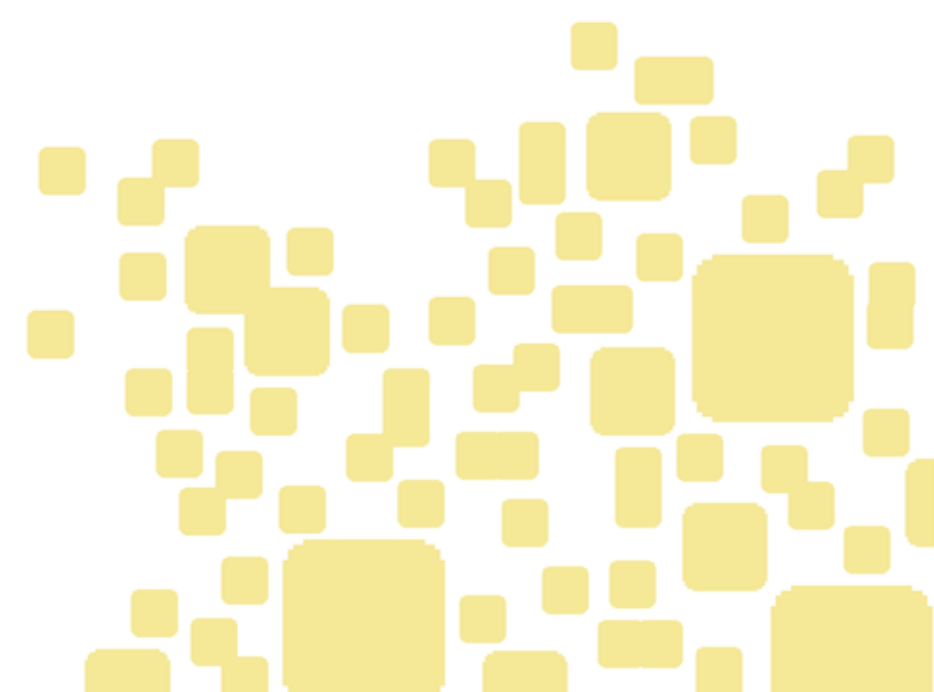
*This is not to say that hoping for change is wrong or that working toward it is futile.*

Change continues to happen, even for an institution as deeply rooted in tradition as the Catholic Church.



Though the will of God is unchangeable, the Church's understanding, application, and administration of that will are constantly evolving.

*God speaking through the conscience of His people can change the face of His Church.*





To have faith in something is not to be blind to its faults, but to understand and see beyond them.

*Love in the face of flaws,  
forgiveness without conditions,  
respect despite differences—*

these are the values at the core of Christianity  
and, by extension, Catholicism.

## *Bibliography*

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