

## Talk 1

### Catherine of Siena: Bride of Christ

'My dear babbo'

'His eternal benediction'

'The longed-for habit'

'There! I marry you to me in faith'

'From the seclusion of her cell to public life'

'Mamma' Catherine



### The Church's one foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
 she is his new creation by water and the Word.  
 From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
 her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
 and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore oppressed,  
 by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
 yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How  
 long?"  
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
 she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
 'til, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,  
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One  
 and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
 like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

