

Letter 2, *Living the Letters In Ephesians*

The writings this week by Annie Dillard in the book *Living the Letters*, are meant to show the evolving and changing thoughts of one person's concept of church. Many of us evolve and change, as we should, in our thinking on many subjects. My hope is that this week's readings will help you think about your own thinking, especially about the church as you compare these writings with scripture.

Not having a background in Catholicism some of these readings were a bit confusing to me at first. Once I understood what a few words meant, it helped a lot.

Page 33, Reading: From *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*

Anchorite (male)/ **anchoress** (female), (adj. anchoritic; from Greek: ἀναχωρέω *anachōreō*, signifying "to withdraw", "to depart into the rural countryside"), denotes someone who, for religious reasons, withdraws from secular society so as to be able to lead an intensely prayer-oriented, ascetic and, circumstances permitting, Eucharist-focused life. As a result, anchorites are usually considered to be a type of religious hermit,^[1] although there are distinctions in their historical development and theology.

Anchorhold: Examples of the dwellings of anchorites and anchoresses survive. They tended to be a simple cell (also called "anchorhold"), built against one of the walls of the local village church

Tinker and Carvins: the names of the creeks

Providence: 1) divine guidance or care 2) *capitalized* : God conceived as the power sustaining and guiding human destiny

Fecundity: 1) the intellectual productivity of a creative imagination
2) the state of being fertile; capable of producing offspring

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Catholic: Here it is used of the Roman Catholic Church. However the word catholic actually means: **universal** or of general interest; or
liberal, having broad interests, or wide sympathies.
inclusive, inviting and containing strong evangelism.

Might be helpful to think of the word as follows: Many Protestants sometimes use the term "**Catholic Church**" to refer broadly to the Christian Church and all believers in Jesus Christ across the world and the ages, regardless of denominational affiliation.^{[7] [8]} Generally, to avoid confusion between this concept and the Catholic Church, above, theologians (in English) will refer to the latter as the Church catholic, utilizing the lower-case.

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Some of the ideas in this final excerpt are difficult for me because I do not know the context from which she is speaking. I have a difficult time with the phrase "God does not give a hoot", because as we are seeing from our study, God cares a great deal. I would love to hear your feedback on this one.