



STEVE WEIDENKOPF

TIMELESS

A HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

STUDY GUIDE

OSV

Introduction

TAKEAWAYS

1. History is learned best as a dramatic story, a narrative retelling of identity, not as an objective science.
2. The Church is established by Christ, alive, and timeless. She lives out faith, hope, and love through the actions of her members. She is organized by a visible hierarchical structure that is divinely instituted. She is the instrument through which Christ, via the sacraments, communicates truth and grace to the world. This is true despite the inauthentically lived faith of some who came before us.
3. The Catholic understanding of history is **salvation history**: the unfolding of God's plan for his people, their sanctification, and their eventual union with him in heaven.
4. Learning Church history is vital to the modern-day Catholic because it allows us to make sense of our world, to know Christ better, to defend the Faith and the Church, and to know who we are.

The Beginning — Pentecost and the Spread of the Gospel

TAKEAWAYS

1. Endowed with authority as representatives of Christ and newly christened with the Holy Spirit, the apostles spread the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. They didn't preach an idea or philosophy. Rather, they gave witness to the person of Jesus Christ.
2. Through Pentecost, Saul's conversion, and Cornelius's baptism, God demonstrated that the Gospel is meant for everyone. Christ broke down the barrier between Jew and Gentile. Believers are no longer separated by different languages, nor bound by the Mosaic law and circumcision.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What happened at Pentecost? Why is it significant?
2. What can we learn from Saint Stephen's martyrdom?
3. What contributed to the rapid and far-spread advance of the Gospel?
4. Why was Paul's missionary activity vital for the early Church?
5. What is the significance of the Council of Jerusalem?
6. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in the life of the early Church?

POINTS/DATES TO MEMORIZE

- ❑ Pentecost — the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples after Jesus' Ascension; reversal of the Tower of Babel
- ❑ Stephen's Martyrdom — his stoning ordered by the Sanhedrin
- ❑ Saul's Conversion — the transformation of a persecutor into a missionary on the road to Damascus
- ❑ Cornelius's Conversion — the baptism of the first Gentile (and his household) into Christ's Church
- ❑ The Council of Jerusalem — a meeting of early Church leaders held to decide how to respond to the Circumcision Party, who said Christians must follow Jewish dietary restrictions and the law of circumcision

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Matthias** — This disciple became an apostle after the Eleven cast lots to pick someone to fill Judas's place.
2. **Saint Peter** — Once a humble fisherman, Peter became an apostle, and then was given Christ's authority on earth after the Ascension. He was the first pope.
3. **Saint Stephen** — Stephen was the first martyr of the Church, stoned to death for presenting a convicting catechesis of Christ to the Sanhedrin.
4. **Saint James the Greater** — This apostle was executed under Herod Agrippa, making him another one of the first Church martyrs. Tradition holds that he brought the Gospel to the Roman province of Hispania, modern-day Spain.
5. **Saint Paul** — Formerly Saul, a Pharisee and persecutor of Christians, Paul changed his name shortly after his conversion. The Holy Spirit transformed him into the greatest missionary of all time. He repeatedly suffered for the Faith through imprisonments, floggings, beatings, shipwrecks, and stoning. He preached to Jewish communities and Gentiles, spreading the Faith like wildfire all across the Roman Empire. He wrote letters, thirteen of which are in our Bible today, to his fellow missionaries and to the churches he established.
6. **Cornelius** — This Roman centurion was the first Gentile to join the early Church. Cornelius's conversion occurred through miraculous circumstances and visions, and it showed that the Gospel was meant not just for Jews but for the whole world.
7. **Saint James the Less** — James, the brother of Jesus, became bishop of Jerusalem. He participated in the Council of Jerusalem in the early days of the Church, which settled the issues with the Circumcision Party and set the procedure for how disagreements and questions would be settled by the Church's leadership.

The Empire and the Church

TAKEAWAYS

1. The early Church had to coexist in a foreign, and at many times hostile, environment. The faithful endured afflictions ranging from nonsensical slander to outright physical persecution and martyrdom. Distrusted by many, Christians often became the scapegoats for any problems society or the Empire encountered.
2. Despite opposition from Roman emperors, pagan and Catholic heresies, and other external circumstances, the Faith persevered and kept spreading throughout the ancient world. This is all thanks to the work of the first saints, apologists, brave laypeople, and a faithful God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the Roman Empire?
2. What kinds of persecution did early Christians face under the Roman Empire?
3. Why were the Romans and other pagans so threatened by the Faith?
4. What do early Church writings, like the Didache and Epistle of Clement, have to offer us?
5. What heresies did the early Church have to confront? Do you see any parallels to those heretical thoughts in our world today?
6. What is an apologist? Who were some of the first Christian apologists?
7. What does Tertullian mean when he writes, “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of Christians”?

POINTS/DATES TO MEMORIZE

- ❑ 31 B.C. — Octavian, now called “Augustus,” becomes the first Roman emperor
- ❑ July 18, A.D. 64 — the burning of Rome, followed by persecution of Christians who were blamed for it
- ❑ [~A.D. 67] — martyrdoms of Saints Peter and Paul during the reign of Nero
- ❑ A.D. 70 — the Temple at Jerusalem is destroyed during the First Jewish War
- ❑ Gnosticism, a heresy which presented Jesus as a spiritual being who only appeared human, and radically rejected the material world, threatens the Church during the early 2nd century.
- ❑ A.D. 144 — heretic Marcion establishes his own church, teaching that the material world is evil
- ❑ A.D. 250 — Emperor Decius initiates the first Empire-wide persecution of Christians
- ❑ Diocletian splits the Roman Empire in two in the late 3rd century. The new Roman government consisted of two emperors, one for each half of the empire and two caesars, who acted as their delegates.
- ❑ February 22, 303 — Diocletian issues the first edict in what will become the Great Persecution

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Saint Justin, Martyr** — Justin was one of the first Church apologists, known for such writings as his First Apology. After converting to the Faith, he moved to Rome and opened a school to teach Christian philosophy for free. He was martyred during the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius (r. 161–180).
2. **Nero** — This emperor was a madman who blamed the Christians for the burning of Rome, initiating persecution against the early Church.
3. **Josephus** — Josephus was a Jewish historian whose books, such as *The Wars of the Jews*, tell us much about life in first-century Rome.
4. **Vespasian and his son, Titus** — Roman military commanders during the Great Jewish Revolt, who became emperors.
5. **Saint Clement of Rome** — Clement became the fourth bishop of Rome. He wrote an epistle to the Corinthians that we still have today. It affirms the Church’s sacramental structure, apostolic succession, and belief in papal primacy and universal jurisdiction.
6. **Celsus and Porphyry** — These men initiated the first major pagan intellectual attacks against the Church. Both of them denied key tenets of belief, such as the Incarnation and Resurrection.
7. **Marcion and Montanus** — Marcion and Montanus introduced their own heretical versions of the Faith. Marcion dichotomized the Old and New Testaments, while Montanus modified the Church’s teachings following what he claimed were direct revelations from the Holy Spirit. Each man amassed a small following.
8. **Origen, Tertullian, St. Ignatius of Antioch, St. Irenaeus** — These early Church fathers were fierce apologists of the truth.
9. **Saint Polycarp** — Polycarp was a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist and was one of the most respected members of the Church. He was martyred during an anti-Christian outburst that led to the execution of many believers.
10. **Saint Hippolytus** — Hippolytus was the first antipope and initiated a schism that lasted for nineteen years. Eventually he reconciled to the Church. His work *Apos-*

tolitic Tradition provides insight into the rite of baptism by the early Church and details about the structure of the liturgy, including the celebration of the Eucharist.

11. **Decius** — Decius was the Roman emperor who initiated the first Empire-wide persecution of the Church: an obligation to sacrifice to the idols of the pagan gods.
12. **Diocletian** — This Roman emperor split the Empire in two, and created smaller regional jurisdictions known as “dioceses” (named for himself). He also instigated the Great Persecution, wherein Christian churches and buildings were ordered to be closed, Scriptures were handed over to Roman authorities for destruction, and innumerable Christians were severely persecuted through imprisonment, torture, or martyrdom.
13. **Eusebius of Caesarea** — Known as the “Father of Church History,” Eusebius’s writings tell us much about life in the early Church. His Ecclesiastical History sheds light on the gruesome horrors that many Christians faced during the Great Persecution.

Conversions

TAKEAWAYS

1. In the 300s, the Faith went from being a persecuted (but still strong) sect to a legally endorsed religion that flourished even more. Under Emperor Constantine, the Roman Empire was united once again, and the Christian Faith was the favored religion. There arose more controversies (Donatism), heresies (Arianism, Pelagianism), and attacks against the Church (Julian the Apostate), but ultimately the faithful thrived under God's providential guidance.
2. In the age of the early Church Fathers, innumerable men and women protected and strengthened the Church through their writing, saintly lives, and teachings. This period in Church History gives us many of the "cornerstone" names we remember today: Saints Augustine, Monica, Martin, Ambrose, Anthony, Jerome, John Chrysostom, Athanasius, Geneviève, Clotilda. We are forever indebted to their work in preserving and building up the Faith.
3. The collapse of the Western Roman Empire brought new peoples onto the scene. Germanic tribes from the north mingled with those in Roman society. Despite heresies and political interests, the Church was able to win over many more souls to truth. The new religious and political climate of the continent began taking shape.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What changes did the Faith undergo because of Constantine's rulership? Do you see any parallels to how the Church and government coexist today?
2. How did the Church struggle to articulate Jesus' identity in the fourth century and onward?
3. Why was heresy able to spread so quickly during this time period?
4. What are the origins of monasticism? How did it change and develop?

5. What changes did Julian make to Constantine's laws about the Church? Why did his attempts to squash the Faith fail?
6. What important Church writings emerged in this time period?
7. How did the Church address heresy and assert orthodoxy during this time?
8. What contributed to the collapse of the Western Roman Empire?

POINTS/DATES TO MEMORIZE

- ❑ October 28, 312 — Battle of the Milvian Bridge, in which Constantine becomes sole ruler of the Western Empire and legislates Christian morality
- ❑ 325 — The Council of Nicaea convenes, producing the Nicene Creed as a declaration of faith and doctrine
- ❑ 380 — Emperor Theodosius issues the Edict of Thessalonica, making the Catholic Faith the sole religion of the Empire
- ❑ 382 — Saint Jerome begins working on a translation of the Scriptures into Latin, later known as the Vulgate
- ❑ 410— Gothic warrior Alaric and his army sack Rome, rampaging, pillaging, and murdering for three days
- ❑ 431 — the Council of Ephesus convenes and affirms Mary as Theotokos, Mother of God
- ❑ 451 —the Council of Chalcedon is held; Pope Leo I the Great's Tome is read and Christ's full humanity and divinity is affirmed.
- ❑ Christmas Day, 496 — Clovis, King of the Franks, is baptized in Reims, legitimizing the Faith in the eyes of his people

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Saint Martin of Tours** — A former soldier of the Roman military, Martin encountered Christ in an act of selfless charity. Eventually he became a monk and then, contrary to his wishes, was elected bishop of Poitiers. In that role, Martin brought the Gospel to the pagani in the countryside, forming the foundation of the non-urban Church.
2. **Constantine** — first Roman emperor to favor the Christian Faith. Under his rule, the Church was protected by law.
3. **Arius** — Arius was a priest in Alexandria, Egypt who tried to explain the apparent paradoxes of the Trinity and Jesus' two full natures. His teachings resulted in a heresy that plagued the Church for centuries.
4. **Saint Anthony the Abbot** — After living a solitary, silent, and penitential life in the desert, Anthony attracted a group of followers who wanted to imitate his lifestyle. This became the foundation of monasticism.
5. **Saint Athanasius** — As bishop of Alexandria, Athanasius fought hard to protect the people of his diocese from Arianism. He was eventually exiled for maintaining the Nicene faith. His efforts earned him the moniker "Defender of Orthodoxy."
6. **Julian the Apostate** — After he became Roman Emperor, Julian persecuted the Catholic Church, which involved torturing and exiling bishops and executing Christians in Syria. He also attempted to revive the old pagan Roman religion and rebuild temples.
7. **Saint Ambrose** — This bishop was instrumental in rooting out Arianism and uniting the Milanese people under Nicenean orthodoxy. He ensured the independence of the Church from secular control, rejected the notion of caesaropapism, and developed *lectio divina*. His mentorship of Augustine was one of the most important relationships in Church history.
8. **Saint John Chrysostom** — John was known as the "Golden-Mouthed" for his profound preaching. He was archbishop of Antioch, beloved by the people but loathed by the rich and powerful, who were responsible for his exile and eventual death.
9. **Saint Jerome** — A brilliant theologian and Church Father, Jerome was appointed papal secretary under Pope

Saint Damasus I, who commissioned him to translate the Scriptures into Latin. This version of the Bible became known as the Vulgate.

10. **Saint Augustine** — Following his conversion from paganism, Augustine became a prolific writer of Christian doctrine and spirituality. He wrote such works as *Confessions* and *City of God*, which established him as the Church's unmatched thinker and theologian for 800 years. He also fought against the heresies of Manichaeism, Donatism, and Pelagianism.
11. **Pope Leo I** — This man had one of the longest papacies in Church history, during which he exerted papal supremacy throughout the Church, enforced ecclesiastical discipline, fought heresies, and protected Rome. Leo taught the doctrine of the hypostatic union: that Jesus is one divine person with two natures, "truly God and truly man."
12. **Alaric** — A German commander of Roman auxiliary forces, Alaric was responsible for the sack of Rome in the early fifth century.
13. **Saint Clotilda** — Clotilda's strong faith, taught to her by her Catholic mother, led to the pivotal conversion of her husband, King Clovis.
14. **Clovis, King of the Franks** — Despite the years he spent initially resisting God, Clovis (and 3,000 of his soldiers) converted to the Faith in 496. Clovis was the only Catholic king, and the most powerful political and military leader, in Western Europe. His conversion legitimized the Faith in the eyes of his people, forever changing the course of Church history.

Bright Lights in a Dark Time

TAKEAWAYS

1. Though often referred to as the “Dark Ages,” this period in history is actually marked by immense cultural, economic, and political development. The Gospel continued to spread among the pagan and Arian Germanic tribes. Technological advances helped systematize agriculture. Slavery was eradicated in Europe, though the feudal system soon took its place. Islam emerged on the scene as a major religious power, which would cause immense conflict with Jews and Christians for centuries to come.
2. The Church’s relationship with political powers began to evolve as the Holy Roman Empire was established, gradually forming the close cooperation of church and state that we call Christendom. Unfortunately, political interests also intersected with the papacy in selfish ways. Various Italian noble families wrestled to secure the title and power of the papal office. Towards the end of this time period, Cluny and its daughter-houses produced monks (and popes) who began to institute ecclesial reform.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What contributed to the acceptance of the Gospel throughout Western Europe (including the British Isles)?
2. How did Saint Benedict of Nursia impact monastic life?
3. Why did Islam achieve sudden and overwhelming success?
4. How did Church leaders address Islam’s entrance onto the world stage?
5. How did the Church’s relationship with the Roman Empire (and other governing authorities) vary throughout this time period?

6. What theological language did the Church eventually approve of to describe Jesus' identity and the relationship between the persons of the Trinity? Why do you think this process was so long and difficult?
7. What were the pros and cons of Christendom?
8. What made Charlemagne so great?
9. Who were the best popes of this time period? Who were the worst? Why?
10. What contributed to the rise of feudalism in Western Europe?

POINTS/DATES TO MEMORIZE

- ❑ 400s — Saint Patrick secures the presence of the Faith in Ireland
- ❑ 530 — Saint Benedict of Nursia founds the monastery at Monte Cassino, thus forming the foundations of western monasticism
- ❑ 610 — Muhammad receives his allegedly divine revelations at Mecca
- ❑ 681 — the Third Council of Constantinople condemns Monothelism as heresy
- ❑ 711 — Islam forces complete their conquest of Visigothic Spain
- ❑ 732 — Charles Martel defeats Abdul al-Rahman's forces at the Battle of Poitiers, preserving western civilization from the forces of Islam
- ❑ 787 — the Second Council of Nicaea approves the use of icons and images of Christ, Mary and the saints
- ❑ 800 — Pope Leo III crowns Charlemagne emperor, setting the stage for the formation of the Holy Roman Empire
- ❑ Late 8th century — the Vikings begin attacking England

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Charlemagne** — As the first emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, Charles instituted major reforms that led to the conversion of barbarian tribes across Western Europe. He united the lands under his domain through the Carolingian Renaissance, a revival of art, architecture, and education.
2. **Saint Patrick** — Patrick wasn't the first missionary to go to Ireland, but he was the first to secure the Faith's presence there through organizing the Church, converting the pagan tribes, and connecting the Irish Church with the Roman Church.
3. **Saint Benedict** — The patron saint of Europe, Benedict ignited support and reform for monasticism in the West, which included writing his Rule as a guidebook for life in the monastery.
4. **Pope Saint Gregory the Great** — This pope had one of the most important pontificates in Church history, during which he reformed the Church clergy, liturgy, and music; defended the Faith against secular rulers; wrote the work Pastoral Care as an aid for bishops; and formed the basis of Catholic missionary principles and policies for centuries to come.
5. **Saint Boniface** — Known as the "Apostle to the Germans," Boniface was responsible for evangelizing the areas which are now modern Germany and the Netherlands.
6. **Muhammad** — Muhammad was a member of an important and wealthy tribe in the Arabian Peninsula. Starting in the year 610, he received alleged visions from God that inspired him to unite the various tribes under the mantle of Islam.
7. **Pope Saint Martin I** — This holy man defended Church orthodoxy against the heresy of Monothelism, for which he was arrested, exiled, and eventually martyred (the last papal martyr in Church history).
8. **Charles Martel** — Charles led the Frankish forces against Abdul al-Rahman at the Battle of Poitiers. His victory prevented Islam from demolishing the Frankish kingdom, which would have changed all of European and Church history.
9. **Pope Saint Nicholas the Great** — The last pope to be given the title "the Great," Nicholas defended the Church

during the Photian schism in the 850s–60s.

10. **Stephen VII and Pope Formosus** — Stephen became pope shortly after Formosus died, and is known for putting the former pope's corpse on trial for perjury in the Synod of the Corpse. This was the escalation of events that happened during a turbulent series of papacies from 867–920.
11. **Duke William of Aquitaine** — William donated land for the construction of what eventually became the monastery at Cluny, which was one of the most important monasteries in all of Christendom.

Cathedrals and Crusades

TAKEAWAYS

1. The Age of Faith was a period of intense military activity. The Crusades, born from a desire to reclaim the Holy Land for Christendom and purify one's soul, saw a handful of campaigns into Muslim territory — some of which ended in victory, and others which resulted in failure. The medieval inquisitors were established to combat the spread of heresy.
2. The Church strove to reform her clergy during a time when priests disregarded their

vows of celibacy and the papacy was at risk of becoming a game of thrones between secular rulers. Leaders who actively came alongside their people — rather than ruling from a distance — were able to oversee the clergy more effectively and root out immorality. Switching papal election from the hands of the emperor to the College of Cardinals limited secular interference with the hope that pontiffs were chosen from purer motivations and thus would provide the Church with the pious leaders she deserved.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you think Church history might have been different if the Great Schism hadn't happened? What might the Church look like today?
2. Why was it important for pontiffs to stress papal authority over secular rulers?
3. Why did people go on Crusade?
4. How did local politics and infighting influence the outcome of the Crusades?
5. What contributed to the spread of Catharism in France?
6. What was expected from the medieval inquisitors? What were some advantages and disadvantages of their approach?

7. How did education change with the arrival of universities and Scholasticism? Do you see any parallels with our schools today?
8. How did the Church reform her clergy and structure during this period?
9. What can we learn from the “Lady Poverty” lifestyle that Saint Francis of Assisi embraced?

POINTS/DATES TO MEMORIZE

- ❑ 1054 — the Eastern Church formally splits from the West in the Great Schism
- ❑ 1059 — Papal election switches from the emperor-appointed method to election by the College of Cardinals
- ❑ 1066 — William, Duke of Normandy, wins the crown of England by defeating King Harold at the Battle of Hastings
- ❑ 1096–1102 — the First Crusade, which climaxes in the liberation of Jerusalem and the establishment of the Crusader States
- ❑ 1147–1149 — the Second Crusade takes place in response to the jihad in Edessa but ultimately results in failure and disaster
- ❑ 1187 — Saladin takes back Jerusalem and seizes the relic of the True Cross
- ❑ 1189–1192 — the Crusade of Kings, which results in liberating Acre and Jaffa for Christendom but failing to re-secure Jerusalem
- ❑ Scholasticism — this synthesis of theology, Scripture, and Aristotelian philosophy is introduced to universities in the 13th century, changing education forever
- ❑ 1201–1205 — the Fourth Crusade, another attempt to take back Jerusalem, culminates in the Sack of Constantinople (1204) by the Crusaders that initiates centuries of acrimony and recriminations

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Saint Bernard of Clairvaux** — The greatest cleric of his age, Bernard was a preacher, theologian, reformer, devotee of Mary, and miracle worker. He founded a famous monastery at Clairvaux and was instrumental in motivating the nobility of Christendom to take up arms in the Second Crusade.
2. **Saint Peter Damian** — In the wake of clerical immorality, Peter tirelessly dedicated his life to the reform of the clergy, writing letters to Pope Leo IX that encouraged the pontiff to root out sexual immorality from among the priesthood.
3. **Pope Saint Leo IX** — Leo launched one of the most comprehensive reforms in Church history. This involved a personal approach in which he held local synods wherever he traveled, deposing immoral bishops to root out the deep-seated corruption present in the Church.
4. **Michael Cerularius** — As bishop of Constantinople from 1043–1058, Michael was patriarch during the Great Schism. He contributed to the hostility that led to the Eastern Church breaking off from the West, such as by outlawing the celebration of the Latin Rite Mass in the imperial capital and excommunicating Pope Leo IX's ambassador Humbert.
5. **Pope Saint Gregory VII** — Gregory elevated papal authority in Christendom through his *Dictatus Papae* and excommunication of Henry IV during the Investiture Controversy, for which he was attacked by Henry's armies and the Normans.
6. **Henry IV of Germany** — Excommunicated five times by three different popes, Henry is known for butting heads with the papacy. This was evident during the Investiture Controversy, in which Henry rebelled against Pope Gregory VII's lay investiture ban.
7. **Caliph al-Hakim** — Al-Hakim controlled Egypt in the early eleventh century, during which he passed laws that severely persecuted non-Muslims. He ordered the destruction of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 1009, paving the way for future Islamic attacks against Christians that would eventually result in the Crusades.
8. **Blessed Pope Urban II** — This pope inaugurated the crusading movement by stressing the liberation of Jerusalem, the violent activities of the Turks, and the need for western warriors to take up arms. He announced the First Crusade

between the East and the West

- ❑ 1208–1229 — the Albigensian Crusade takes place in order to eradicate heretical Catharism from France
- ❑ 1218–1221 — the Fifth Crusade, in which Egypt (the center of Muslim control) is attacked in the hopes of liberating Jerusalem; temporary truce and retreat result
- ❑ 1228–1229 — the Sixth Crusade, led by faithless Frederick II, which ends in the Treaty of Jaffa
- ❑ 1231 — Pope Gregory IX formally institutes the procedures for the medieval inquisitors in his bull *Ille humani generis*
- ❑ 1268 — Muslim ruler Baybars sacks Christian Jaffa and Antioch, enacting the worst massacre in crusading history
- ❑ 1270 — Saint Louis IX's death marks the end of the Crusades to the Holy Land

and, to rally support, went on a two-thousand-mile preaching tour throughout Christendom.

9. **Yusuf Ibn Ayyub, known as Saladin** — Saladin overthrew the Shi'ite Fatimid caliphate in Egypt and sought to unite the Muslim world in order to drive Christians from the Latin East. He launched an invasion of Christian territory in 1187 that focused on recapturing Jerusalem, at the end of which he took the Holy City from Christian control.
10. **Richard I the Lionhearted** — Richard was the King of England during the Crusade of Kings, in which he participated wholeheartedly, fighting to keep Jerusalem free from Saladin's grasp.
11. **Pope Innocent III** — The first pope to systematically utilize the title "Vicar of Christ," Innocent advocated for the superiority of spiritual power to temporal power. He called not only for many Crusades (including the Fourth and Fifth), but also for Church reform and for improved strategy in preaching the Crusades.
12. **Saint Francis of Assisi** — Francis was one of the first monks to embrace "Lady Poverty," taking up the life of a beggar. He established the Order of Friars Minor, which focused on ministry to the poor. He is also known for bringing the Gospel to Muslim territory, including to the leader al-Kamil during the Crusades.
13. **King Saint Louis IX** — Louis was the "Sainly Crusader" from France, remembered for his pious participation in the Crusades. He was the last monarch of Europe to go on Crusade to the Holy Land, dying not long after Baybars's horrific sack of Jaffa in 1268.
14. **Saint Thomas Becket** — Thomas was made archbishop of Canterbury in 1161. He is known for remaining steadfast to the Church's customs and restrictions on secular royal authority in the face of King Henry II Plantagenet, which led to his murder.
15. **Saint Dominic** — This priest founded the Order of Preachers, a religious order of men to effectively preach and defend the Faith. The order was the primary intellectual Catholic apostolate for centuries.
16. **Saint Thomas Aquinas** — Thomas Aquinas was one of the first and greatest Scholastic thinkers of the thirteenth century. His *Summa Theologica* remains a foundational work of introductory theology, tackling theological and philosophical questions about God, the rational creature's ascent to God, and Christ.

The Family Weakens — Prelude to Division

TAKEAWAYS

1. The fourteenth and fifteenth centuries saw scandal and corruption rock the Church, especially within the papacy. Popes clashed with secular rulers, often to the detriment of papal authority. Temporal and political interests interfered with spiritual leadership, as evidenced in the Avignon papacy and the Great Western Schism. People's faith in the Vicar of Christ was shaken irreparably as they witnessed ecclesiastical abuse in the clergy. John Wyclif, Jan Hus, and Savonarola taught and preached against corruption and abuses but embraced heresy. These events paved the way for further distrust and rebellion in later centuries.
2. Many "landmarks" in secular European history occurred in this time period. The Black Plague shook the Continent, eliminating nearly one-third of the population. Giotto developed artistic innovations that laid the foundation for the Italian Renaissance. Constantinople tragically fell into the Ottomans' hands. England and France suffered many casualties during the Hundred Years' War.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How was the Church affected by the aftermath of the Black Plague?
2. What factors weakened the relationship between the pope and secular rulers?
3. How do you think the Great Western Schism could have been prevented?
4. What role did Catherine of Siena have in fourteenth-century religion and politics?
5. Why do you think the heresy of conciliarism became prevalent among scholars and theologians in this time period?

6. What were the consequences of Constantinople's fall?
7. Why did Fernando and Isabel want to investigate heresy in their kingdom?
8. How was the Spanish Inquisition carried out?

POINTS/DATES TO MEMORIZE

- ❑ 1309 — Clement V moves the papal residence from Rome to Avignon in southern France, beginning the Avignon papacy
- ❑ 1350–1450 — three waves of the bubonic plague ravage Christendom, destroying nearly one-third of the population
- ❑ 1377 — Pope Gregory XI returns to Rome, ending the Avignon papacy
- ❑ 1377, 1403 — the teachings of proto-Protestants John Wyclif and Jan Hus are censured
- ❑ 1378–1417 — three different men, each backed by saints and secular authorities, claim to be Pope in the Great Western Schism
- ❑ 1414–1418 — the Council of Constance convenes and resolves the Great Western Schism
- ❑ 1431 — Saint Joan of Arc, after saving France from English domination, is burned at the stake in the midst of the Hundred Years' War
- ❑ 1447–1521 — the ten “Renaissance Popes” succeed one another, each focused on temporal, rather than Church, issues, practicing ecclesiastical abuses that shake faith in the papacy
- ❑ 1453 — Constantinople falls to Mehmet II, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, in a devastating defeat
- ❑ 1478 — Pope Sixtus IV issues a bull establishing the Spanish Inquisition

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Saint Catherine of Siena** — Catherine is one of the greatest female saints in Church history. She dedicated her life to chastity and serving the poor, and wrote prolific letters to kings, dukes, princes, and popes, encouraging them to do what was right in God's eyes. She was influential in ending the Avignon papacy. She is also remembered for her Dialogue, a spiritual writing that focuses on authentic self-knowledge and guarding the soul through virtuous exercise of free will.
2. **King Philip IV of France** — Known for constantly butting heads with the papacy, Philip exerted his secular authority over clerical power whenever he could. He was instrumental in moving the papacy to France, where he had easy access to the pope and College of Cardinals for better manipulation.
3. **Pope Gregory XI** — Having sworn a vow to return the papacy to Rome if he were elected pontiff, Gregory ultimately did end the Avignon papacy (upon additional urging from Catherine of Siena).
4. **Pope Urban VI** — Urban was pope during the beginning of the scandal of the Great Western Schism, which occurred when other cardinals in the College disliked his leadership and illegitimately elected an antipope. He is known for his gruff, uncharitable demeanor, though he strove for needed reform in the Church.
5. **John Wyclif and Jan Hus** — These two “proto-Protestants” began the formulation of main Protestant tenets before Protestantism gained momentum 150 years later. They preached against saint veneration, indulgences, prayers for the dead, primacy of the Pope, and the Real Presence in the Eucharist, and advocated sola scriptura and utraquism.
6. **Saint Joan of Arc** — Joan received messages during the Hundred Years' War that instructed her in her divine mission to save France. She led French forces in liberating cities and witnessed the coronation of Charles VII. She was burned at the stake under the indirect influence of the English.
7. **Mehmet II** — Mehmet was sultan of the Ottoman Empire during the latter half of the 1400s, making him instrumental in the siege and subsequent fall of Constantinople. He was successful in his military campaign by commissioning an engineer to create a large bronze-cast cannon that he

- 1503–1513 — the papacy of Julius II, during which the Papal States are restored and 200 Swiss Guards are established as the pope's bodyguards

used to take down Constantinople's walls.

8. **Pope Pius II** — Dedicated to deliver Constantinople back into Christian hands, Pius planned his own Crusade, for which he took the cross. However, his Crusade ended when he contracted the plague and died during a meeting with other European leaders.
9. **Fernando and Isabel** — This duo united the separate kingdoms of Aragon and Castile into the Kingdom of Spain in 1479. They are known for instigating the Spanish Inquisition in an effort to universalize genuine faith throughout their kingdom.
10. **Giotto** — Giotto was an Italian artist who revolutionized painting by developing a new technique for rendering depth and perspective. This began the Italian Renaissance, wherein artists made huge strides in portraying art realistically.
11. **Savonarola** — This Dominican friar preached radically against immorality, corruption, and vanity present in Renaissance society, including within the Church herself. He contributed to the overthrow of the Medicis in Florence and sat on the city council, where his zeal had widespread influence. When he refused the pope on several occasions and tried to depose him, he was excommunicated, convicted of heresy, and burned at the stake by secular authorities.

The Great Divorce — Revolt Against the Church

TAKEAWAYS

1. In the sixteenth century, what began as a theological quarrel within the Church soon became a full-fledged separation of Christendom into Catholic and Protestant. Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, and Henry VIII are a few of the people who contributed to this movement, igniting revolt across Europe against the Church. The family of God formally divorced, paving the way for centuries of future division, particularly within Protestantism itself. The Church was viewed no longer as the Church but as a church.
2. Not only did the Protestant Revolt have widespread religious consequences, but it also dramatically impacted the political sphere of Christendom. Since religion was not separate from state, kings pledged their allegiance to either the Church or Protestants for their own advantage, outlawing the denomination they disagreed with. Bloody rebellions and infighting arose because of this. Many lives were lost in the name of eradicating one religion or another from a ruler's land.
3. Amidst this cataclysmic crisis, great defenders of the faith rose up in the Church. Cardinal Cajetan, Pope Leo X, Pope Clement VII, Cardinal Reginald Pole, and dozens of saints are remembered for their resistance to Protestantism. Catholics in England risked their lives (and often lost them) in order to preserve and advance the Faith. Our Lady of Guadalupe ensured many conversions to the Catholic Faith in the Americas.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What factors undergirded the Protestant Revolution? Which do you think was/were the most impactful?
2. How did spiritual education and formation play into the revolt against the Church?
3. What areas of the Faith did Luther's rebellion concentrate on? Why were these particularly problematic?

4. Do you think the Protestant Revolt would have succeeded without the invention of printing by movable type? Why or why not?
5. How did Church leaders address Protestants in each stage of the revolt? Why did their efforts ultimately fail?
6. How did Protestant teachings foster further division?
7. What contributions did John Calvin make to the Protestant movement?
8. What made the English Reformation different than its counterparts on the Continent?
9. Who were some of the Catholic heroes of this conflict?
10. How did the Catholic Church suffer politically as a result of the revolt?

POINTS/DATES TO MEMORIZE

- ❑ October 31, 1517 — Luther publishes his 95 Theses
- ❑ January 5, 1521 — Pope Leo X officially excommunicates Luther
- ❑ April 16, 1521 — at the Diet of Worms, Luther is declared a “convicted heretic,” which is punishable by death under secular law, by Emperor Charles V
- ❑ 1525 — the violent Peasants’ Revolt rocks German areas in the wake of Luther’s teachings
- ❑ 1527 — Lutheran imperial troops sack Rome
- ❑ 1531 — Our Lady of Guadalupe appears to Saint Juan Diego in Mexico
- ❑ 1534 — Parliament passes the Act of Supremacy, declaring Henry VIII supreme head of the Church in England
- ❑ 1536 — John Calvin publishes *The Institutes of Christian Religion*, an attempt to systematize Protestant theology
- ❑ 1548 — Thomas Cranmer publishes the first edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* for use in English churches in place of the Catholic Mass
- ❑ 1554 — The Catholic Faith is restored to England by Parliament during the reign of Queen Mary Tudor
- ❑ 1558 — the Protestant Elizabeth I becomes queen of England following the death of her Catholic sister,

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Erasmus** — The world’s first successful itinerant man of letters, Erasmus is known for his *In Praise of Folly*, a work that intended to incite reform in the Church through satire. Unfortunately, Erasmus’s works only contributed to increased doubt concerning the Church’s role in society.
2. **Martin Luther** — Perhaps the most famous Protestant, Luther was an Augustinian monk who initiated a theological revolution against the Church, which became a political revolution against the papacy and secular rulers. He advocated the essential Protestant tenets of *sola fide*, *sola scriptura*, total depravity of human nature, denial of papal supremacy, disbelief in indulgences, and rejection of the Sacraments. His actions, sermons, and writings had a ripple effect on religious rebellion throughout Europe.
3. **Pope Leo X** — Leo was the pontiff who went head-to-head with Luther. He repeatedly condemned Luther’s teachings as heresy in various bulls, eventually excommunicating the revolutionary in 1521.
4. **Cardinal Cajetan** — Cajetan was one of the first members of the clergy to meet with Luther about his heretical teachings, urging him to recant.
5. **Charles V** — Charles was Holy Roman Emperor when the Protestant Revolt first gained footing in Europe. Though he tried to orchestrate peaceful discussion between Catholics and Protestants, Charles decreed various laws in an effort to undermine Protestantism. He also engaged in combat against the Ottoman Turks and the French to protect the Faith.
6. **John Calvin** — Another well-known “Reformer,” Calvin systematized Protestant theology in his writings, *The Institutes*. His teachings expounded on total depravity, different views of Communion, and the doctrine of predestination and election. He established a theocracy in Geneva that set the template for Protestant rulers in future centuries.
7. **Michael Servetus** — Servetus was a Spanish intellectual, known for butting heads with Calvin when the latter encountered his heretical denial of the Trinity. Servetus was executed in Geneva under Calvin’s orders.
8. **Ulrich Zwingli** — Another one of the famous Protestant leaders, Zwingli led the revolt in Zürich, Switzerland. He is known for his complete departure on Church teachings about the Eucharist, insisting that the Body and Blood are

Mary Tudor, and begins her persecution against the Church

- ❑ 1588 — the Spanish Armada is defeated at the Battle of Gravelines, ultimately resulting in the loss of half the Armada and tens of thousands of men
- ❑ 1598 — Henry IV of France signs the Edict of Nantes, granting unlimited freedom of conscience and religious liberty to the Huguenots (Protestants) and ending the religious wars in France
- ❑ 1611 — the King James Version of the Bible is published in England
- ❑ 1618–1648 — the Thirty Years' War erupts in German territory between Protestants and Catholics, which leads to the deaths of 4.5 million people

mere representations of Christ.

9. **Henry VIII** — Following papal rejection of his desired annulment, Henry broke away from the Church in Rome and made himself head of the Church in England, thus inciting a different kind of Protestant revolt in England.
10. **Pope Clement VII** — This pontiff reigned during a very troublesome time in Europe. He had to protect Rome from foreign invading armies, deal with the political and religious conflicts that sprung up in the wake of the Protestant Revolt, and Henry VIII's annulment request.
11. **Thomas Cranmer** — Cranmer became archbishop of Canterbury, a position he used to help eradicate the Catholic Faith in England. One step he took in this endeavor was publishing the Book of Common Prayer, a Protestant version of Church liturgy to replace the Mass.
12. **Saint Juan Diego** — One of the earliest converts to the Faith in the Americas, Juan Diego was on his way to attend Mass in Mexico when he encountered Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her miraculous image on his cloak helped further evangelization efforts in Mexico, leading to the baptisms of nine million native people by 1548.
13. **Mary Tudor** — During her brief reign as queen of England, Mary restored the Faith to the kingdom. This involved rooting out Protestant revolutionaries, which eventually tarnished Mary's reputation for the rest of history.
14. **Cardinal Reginald Pole** — Pole was the man most responsible for the short-lived Catholic restoration in England. His efforts included establishing four diocesan seminaries to train men for the priesthood.
15. **Elizabeth I of England** — As the Protestant queen of England, Elizabeth took every pain to eradicate the Catholic Faith from her kingdom and initiated the first state-sponsored persecution of the Church in Europe since the Roman Empire.

The Great Reform

TAKEAWAYS

1. The Church knew she needed reform before the Protestant Revolt, but after the events of the mid-sixteenth century, it was clear that drastic measures should be undertaken. Pontiffs, clergy, saints, and laypeople alike pushed for widespread, necessary Church reform. Ordination requirements and expectations were raised. Ecclesiastical abuses were punished. Decrees were issued to formulate and solidify Catholic doctrine against the Protestant heresy.
2. Because of the Age of Exploration, the Faith reached new continents and peoples who had never encountered it before, with miraculous results. Saint Francis Xavier brought the Gospel to the Far East, where it persevered despite intense persecution. Bartolomé de las Casas, Saint Peter Claver, Saint Junípero Serra, and the North American Martyrs established missions in the Americas, ministering to and protecting the native peoples. Many missionaries and converts were executed for keeping the Faith during this time, and despite papal instructions to the contrary, foreign slaves were harshly mistreated by colonial authorities.
3. The fifteenth and sixteenth centuries saw a plethora of Ottoman Turkish military campaigns in Europe, which occupied the attention of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and a succession of pontiffs, distracting the Church's attention away from addressing Protestantism. Though Muslim forces made it so far as to threaten the gateway to Europe, their plans were foiled by the brave leaders and soldiers of the Holy League. Many lives were lost to protect Europe from further Ottoman invasion.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did Pope Paul III begin serious work on the Catholic Reformation?
2. How did the Council of Trent pave the way for a new era in Church history?
3. Why was it important to take additional measures after the Council of Trent?

4. How did various popes, mystics, and activists implement the decrees from the Council of Trent?
5. What did missionary activity look like during the Catholic Reformation? Why?
6. How did the Age of Discovery shape the Faith?
7. What contributed to the eradication of slavery in Christendom?
8. What kinds of Ottoman military advances did the Holy League have to address? How might history have unfolded differently if they'd failed?

POINTS/DATES TO MEMORIZE

- ❑ 1435–1890 — a succession of popes issue bulls strongly condemning the slave trade and slavery
- ❑ August 3, 1492 — Columbus embarks on his first voyage from Spain across the Atlantic
- ❑ 1534 — Ignatius of Loyola publishes his *Spiritual Exercises*
- ❑ August 15, 1534 — Ignatius and his six companions form the Society of Jesus
- ❑ 1542–1552 — Francis Xavier’s missionary journeys to the Far East, during which he evangelizes thousands
- ❑ 1545–1563 — the Council of Trent convenes in three different meetings to enact Church reform via conciliar businesses, ushering a new era of unification, purification, and rejuvenation
- ❑ 1565 — the Spanish found a settlement in St. Augustine, Florida, beginning their permanent missionary activity in the Americas
- ❑ 1565 — the fight for the island of Malta, during which the Turks and the Knights Hospitallers lose 50 percent of their troops and 7,000 more Maltese citizens die
- ❑ 1566–1572 — the reign of Pope Saint Pius V, who implements the decrees from Trent through such actions as reforming the clergy, promulgating the first universal catechism (1566), and issuing a

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Pope Paul III** — This pontiff laid the foundation for the Catholic Reformation, which he planned in three stages: reform of Rome and the papal curia, an ecumenical council, and papal implementation of reforms.
2. **Pope Saint Pius V** — Pius V implemented the decrees of the Council of Trent, which earned him the moniker “Father of the Catholic Reformation.” In particular, he reformed the clergy, promulgated the first universal catechism, and published a revised breviary and Roman Missal.
3. **Saint Ignatius of Loyola** — Ignatius is known for founding the Society of Jesus, a group that vowed to live out poverty, chastity, and obedience. He also wrote the *Spiritual Exercises*, a series of meditations, prayers, and examination of conscience, which are still read today.
4. **Saint Teresa of Ávila** — A mystic of the sixteenth century, Teresa founded the Discalced Carmelites, as well as a total of seventeen reformed convents. She wrote prolifically about spirituality and her relationship with Christ in such works as her *Autobiography*, *Way of Perfection*, and *Interior Castle*.
5. **Saint John of the Cross** — Compatriot to Saint Teresa, John joined the Carmelites and reformed the male branch of the order. He is remembered for his all-consuming spiritual and ascetical life, and for such writings as *The Dark Night of the Soul*.
6. **Saint Charles Borromeo** — Charles was one of the most important saints of the Catholic Reformation. He worked hard to reform his archdiocese, establishing seminaries to properly form and train new clergy, introducing confessional furniture, and instituting a vibrant catechetical program.
7. **Saint Francis de Sales** — Francis was a missionary to the Protestants, writing many tracts and pamphlets that explained the Catholic faith. His spiritual treatise, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, is still widely read today.
8. **Christopher Columbus** — Famous for discovering America, Columbus was one of the first European explorers to voyage to the New World. He greatly desired evangelization and catechesis of the native populations he met, requesting missionaries from the pope who would catechize indigenous peoples instead of just baptizing them.
9. **Saint Francis Xavier** — Over a ten-year period, Francis

new Roman Missal (1570)

- ❑ March 7, 1571 — Spain, Venice, and the Papal States form the Holy League
- ❑ October 7, 1571 — the Holy League fights the Ottoman fleet at the Battle of Lepanto for control of the Mediterranean
- ❑ 1580 — the Discalced Carmelites receive papal approval and become an approved religious order
- ❑ 1630s — Christians in Japan are bitterly persecuted, leading to the martyrdom of thousands
- ❑ 1642–1649 — the North American Martyrs die for Christ in New France
- ❑ September 11, 1683 — the Siege of Vienna is lifted by Polish King Jan Sobieski, resulting in Ottoman defeat and the preservation of Europe from Ottoman control

Xavier — a founding member of the Society of Jesus — traveled tens of thousands of miles to bring the Gospel to India, New Guinea, the Philippines, Japan, and an island off the coast of China. He worked tirelessly to implement a native clergy in the lands he evangelized, especially Japan, which led to the survival of the Faith in the Far East despite horrific persecution.

10. **Bartolomé de las Casas** — De las Casas fought for the sanctity of the native peoples in the New World. Though he once lived a normal colonial life in Hispaniola, he experienced a change of heart that made him set his slaves free, become religiously devout, and receive ordination as a Dominican priest. He spoke out against mistreatment of the natives, making five trips across the Atlantic to report directly to King Charles I, who laid down stricter laws as a result.
11. **North American Martyrs** — This group of eight Jesuit priests and lay workers shed their blood for Christ in the New World between 1642–1649. They included René Goupil, Isaac Jogues, Jean de la Lande, Antoine Daniel, Jean de Brébeuf, Gabriel Lalemant, Charles Garnier, and Noël Chabanel.
12. **Suleiman the Magnificent** — Suleiman was sultan during the zenith of the Ottoman Empire. He embarked on ambitious conquests and conquered Baghdad, Belgrade, Budapest, and Rhodes.
13. **Jean de La Valette** — As master general of the Knights Hospitallers, Jean led the Knights against the Ottomans at Malta in grueling combat. His military leadership allowed the Knights to defeat the Ottoman forces.
14. **Don Juan of Austria** — Don Juan commanded the Holy League fleet at the Battle of Lepanto. His trust in the Lord, use of military and spiritual weapons, and military strategy helped the Holy League secure victory over the Ottoman forces.

The Modern Attack

TAKEAWAYS

1. From the seventeenth century onward, the Church faced further hostility from secular rulers. Many countries and kingdoms did all they could to separate themselves from Rome and stamp out Catholic voices in their lands. This took all shapes: subtle, underhanded laws; outright overturning of the Church; direct persecution and even execution of clergy and laypeople. In France, Germany, Spain, and Mexico, the Church faced some of the worst persecution she had seen in centuries.
2. Along with political upheaval came moral attacks against the Church. Modernist philosophy following the Enlightenment — emphasizing the individual, rationality, and doubt — fostered distrust, disbelief, and, at worst, direct attacks toward the Faith. While Catholics had once been the intellectuals behind higher education, this era saw them removed from that sphere, mocked and belittled.
3. The Church had to address much violence in this time period. Aside from the bitter persecution faced by her people, she was confronted by racist policies from world leaders that stripped away the humanity of others — most notably, Adolf Hitler and the Nazis' anti-Semitism. During such horrors, the noble actions taken by Pius XI and XII showed the Church — and the world — how to respond to pervasive evil. They did all they could to protect their fellow humans from the power that tried to strip away their very humanity. Pius XII saved the physical lives of Jewish people, while others, such as Maximilian Kolbe, saved the spiritual lives of those they witnessed to.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has the Church historically treated science? Why do you think this has been misunderstood?
2. How did philosophy and higher education change because of the Enlightenment?
3. What actions did secular rulers take to undermine the Church's power in their lands?
4. How did the Industrial Revolution transform everyday lives and politics of people in the Western world?

5. Why did Pius IX want to hold a new ecumenical council? What was accomplished during the First Vatican Council?
6. Why was World War I the “suicide of civilization”?
7. What occurred at Fátima? Why was it significant?
8. How did various popes try to help the faithful facing extreme persecution in other countries? Do you think they could have done anything differently? Why or why not?
9. How can we emulate Pius XI and Pius XII’s wartime ethics in the present day?

POINTS/DATES TO MEMORIZE

- ❑ 1629 — Galileo publishes *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*, aggravating his relationship with the Church
- ❑ 1682 — King Louis XIV issues the Gallican Articles in an attempt to isolate the Church in France from the pope
- ❑ July 21, 1773 — Influenced by secular rulers, Pope Clement XIV issues an order of suppression against the Society of Jesus, effectively eliminating the order's existence for a generation.
- J❑ July 12, 1790 — amidst the French Revolution, the Civil Constitution of the Clergy is passed to officially separate the Church in France from Rome, beginning a brutal persecution of Catholics in France
- ❑ December 8, 1869 — the First Vatican Council opens under Pius IX
- ❑ 1870 — the Papal States fall into Italian nationalist hands
- ❑ 1914–1918 — the First World War
- ❑ May 13, 1917 — Our Lady of Fátima appears to Lúcia dos Santos, Francisco Marto, and Jacinta Marto in Portugal
- ❑ 1917 — the Mexican Constitution sets the precedent for de facto persecution and eradication of the Church in Mexico
- ❑ 1929 — the sovereign Vatican City State is created in the Lateran Treaty between fascist leader Mus-

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Galileo Galilei** — Galileo was a scientist, known for his episode with the Church in which he violated the ruling of the 1616 Inquisition by publicly arguing that heliocentrism was a proven scientific truth.
2. **René Descartes** — Nicknamed the “Father of Philosophy,” Descartes was a Catholic who developed the method of rationalism. Though Descartes used his philosophy to prove God’s existence, philosophers who came after him utilized it to build a man-centered society that rejected faith.
3. **Voltaire** — Voltaire was a French thinker and author of satirical works that ridiculed the Church. He frequently advocated the suppression of the Jesuits in his writings, which contributed to Parlement requesting the order’s suppression by King Louis XV in 1764.
4. **Cornelius Jansen** — Jansen published a book discussing Saint Augustine and grace with a Lutheran and Calvinist bent. His writings stirred up a new heresy, Jansenism, which pictured God as a fearsome judge, emphasized grace-only salvation, and devalued the Sacraments.
5. **Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette** — Louis and Marie were the king and queen of France during the French Revolution. Though they cared for their people, their laws and policies couldn’t give the people what they wanted, which ultimately resulted in their executions and the Reign of Terror.
6. **Napoleon Bonaparte** — Napoleon came to power in France shortly after the Reign of Terror ended and the Directory was established to organize the French government. He accomplished many military feats as leader of the French Army, including a conquest of Rome. He was excommunicated after annexing the Papal States, and died following years spent in exile.
7. **Pope Pius IX** — Pius IX had the second-longest papal reign in Church history, during which he frequently addressed modernism, implemented new technologies, and opened the First Vatican Council, which expounded on the doctrine of papal infallibility.
8. **Otto von Bismarck** — As first chancellor of the German Empire, Bismarck wanted to unify the German people in a shared culture and religion. This involved eliminating the Catholic Church in Germany in his Kulturkampf (“culture

solini and Pope Pius XI

- ❑ July 18, 1936 — the Spanish Civil War begins
- ❑ 1939–1945 — the Second World War rocks the globe, culminating in the Holocaust and millions more deaths

war”), through which he passed many anti-Catholic laws.

9. **Pope Benedict XV** — This pope reigned during the First World War and afterward, and spent his pontificate dealing with the war and its impacts. He established the position taken up by later popes during wars: to maintain perfect neutrality, extend charity to all war victims, and call for peace at every opportunity. He created the Prisoners of War Bureau, which facilitated communication between POWs of all sides and their families.
10. **Pope Pius XI** — Pius XI reigned between the two World Wars (1922–1939). During his papacy, he issued encyclicals to try to protect Catholics in Mexico, as well as Catholics in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. He arranged for the sovereignty of the Vatican City State with Mussolini. In the rise of Nazism and fascism, Pius set the precedent for the Church in how to address these ideologies.
11. **Plutarco Calles** — Calles was an anti-Catholic who came to power in Mexico. He implemented laws that led to an extremely bitter persecution of clergy and laymen in Mexico.
12. **Blessed Miguel Pro** — Pro was a Jesuit who secretly ministered to people in Mexico, which ultimately cost him his life. His prayer before his execution, “Viva Cristo Rey,” became the rallying cry for the persecuted faithful in the country.
13. **Pope Pius XII** — Even before he was elected Pontiff, Pius XII fought hard against Nazism and anti-Semitism in Europe. He continued this activism into his papacy, speaking out against Nazism, exhorting Catholics and Protestants alike to do the same. He took personal measures to ensure the safety of the Jews, which included hiding many in his own summer residence.
14. **Adolf Hitler** — Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power in Germany in 1933. Along with his attempt to eradicate the Jewish people from Europe, Hitler tried to silence Catholic voices in Germany because he knew they would resist him. He replaced the Catholic Youth League with the Hitler Youth Program and fought against Catholic education and the Catholic press.

Hope and Mercy

TAKEAWAYS

1. Modernism and the two World Wars left the entire globe in a state of hopelessness and skepticism. The Church needed to show the world she was more relevant than ever, while enriching people's lives with faith, hope, and love. Through God's provision, strong pontiffs over the past 100 years have accomplished just that. By holding the Second Vatican Council, publishing innumerable papal and Church documents, and personally living out Christian charity through their actions and visitations, the successors of Saint Peter have reinvigorated the life of the Church.
2. Increasing secularization continues to put demands on the Mystical Body. The faithful who have gone before us provide models for living in this time. While we await the Second Coming, we should actively engage in evangelization and catechesis, staying true to what God has spoken through Sacred Scripture, through history, and through his precious Church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did Pope John XXIII think the Church should respond to modernity?
2. In what ways did modern skepticism change evangelization methods?
3. What was accomplished at the Second Vatican Council?
4. What is paradoxical about the state of the world today?
5. How was the Church (liturgically, theologically, etc.) reformed in the latter twentieth century?

6. How would you translate Belloc's concepts of the survivals, main opposition, and new arrivals into our world today?

7. Why should we study Catholic history?

POINTS/DATES TO MEMORIZE

- ❑ 1962–1965 — the Second Vatican Council, which produces sixteen documents, including four major constitutions about the Church's source of belief, inner nature, worship, and mission in the modern world
- ❑ 1968 — Paul VI issues the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* on marital and familial life
- ❑ 1969 — Paul VI reforms the Sacred Liturgy with an allowance for the vernacular
- ❑ 1978–2005 — John Paul II's record-setting papacy
- ❑ 1983 — the revised Code of Canon Law is published
- ❑ 1992 — the universal Catechism of the Catholic Church is published
- ❑ February 28, 2013 — Benedict XVI abdicates the papacy
- ❑ March 13, 2013 — Francis is elected pope

IMPORTANT PERSONS

1. **Pope Saint John XXIII** — John's five-year papacy was one of the most important in modern Church history. He arranged for the Second Vatican Council, which he hoped would focus on renewal, and the defense and advancement of the truth.
2. **Pope Saint Paul VI** — Paul was a pope committed to reform and missionary efforts. He reformed the clergy and liturgy through various decrees and promulgations. He was the first pope to travel around the world extensively, increasing the prestige and influence of the papal office and setting a precedent for future pontiffs. He also issued the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, a discourse with instructions on how modern Catholics should approach marriage and family life.
3. **Pope Saint John Paul II** — As one of the longest-reigning pontiffs, John Paul II accomplished much for the Church and the world. A prolific writer, he left many works of wisdom for the Church, including his popular *Theology of the Body*; focused on reinvigorating the Gospel in previously converted lands by establishing the New Evangelization; and renewed Catholic hearts, especially with the youth of the world, by preparing the Church to enter the third millennium. He lived out the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love in poignant, visible ways.
4. **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis** — These two popes reigned after John Paul II. In a shocking move, Benedict abdicated the see of Saint Peter, which Francis was elected to fill. The two pontiffs have continued John Paul II's vision for the papacy and the Church by embodying faith, hope, and love.
5. **Hilaire Belloc** — Belloc was a Catholic author, historian, and politician whose analyses of the modern world give today's Catholics much to reflect and act on.