

Theo 101, Session #09: Timeline of Church History after the New Testament Era The University of St. Francis

The Early Catholic Church (34 – 313 AD)

98 - 116

Trajan was emperor of Rome. Around this time the Roman Empire reached maximum size.

c. 100

Christian Churches were established in Greece, North Africa, Italy, and Asia Minor.

100 - 165

St. Justin Martyr lived and was one of the first Christian apologists to offer a defense of Christianity.

c. 100

The Romans built the first **London Bridge** across the Thames.

c 110:

Ignatius of Antioch uses the term Catholic Church in a letter to the Church at Smyrna (Date disputed, some insist it was a forgery written in 250 or later. Others insist he merely meant “catholic”, small “c”, as in Universal.)

122

Roman emperor **Hadrian** visited Britain and began construction of a wall and fortifications between northern England and Scotland.

132

Shimeon Bar-Kokhba and Rabbi Akiba Ben-Joseph led Jews in a revolt against Roman rule. They captured Jerusalem and created an independent state of Israel.

135

Julius Severus, formerly governor of Britain, crushed a revolt in Palestine. Final **Diaspora** (dispersion) of the Jews occurs.

c. 140

Shepherd of Hermas was written, describing a highly developed system of bishops, deacons, and priests.

c. 144

Marcion founded an influential Christian sect which argued for the existence of two gods (one good, one evil) and for the rejection of the Old Testament.

c. 150

The four “canonical” gospels were collected together.

c. 150

The **School of Alexandria** was founded in Egypt, quickly becoming a major center for both Christian theology and Greek philosophy. Among its prominent teachers were the theologians Clement and Origen.

166

Roman Emperor **Marcus Aurelius** sent gifts to Chinese Emperor Huan Ti.

c. 180

Irenaeus (125 - c. 202), Catholic theologian, wrote *Against Heresies* in an attempt to fight the spread of Gnosticism. He claimed that “every Church must agree” with the Church of Rome because of its apostolic authority.

180

First African Christians were martyred at Scillium.

190

Christian council established “official” date of **Easter**.

197

First recorded usage of the term “**catholic**” appeared in the writings of Apollonius in reference to 1 John.

200

New Testament canon was mostly fixed in currently known form.

268

Goths sacked Athens, Corinth, and Sparta.

286

Emperor **Diocletian** divided the empire - he ruled the east and Maximilian ruled the west.

301

Armenia became the first country to make Christianity its state religion.

303

Diocletian ordered a general persecution of all Christians.

Church of the Roman Empire (317 – 476 AD)

317

Constantine, emperor of the Eastern Empire defeated and kills **Maxentius**, emperor of the Western Empire. Constantine converted to Christianity after being inspired by a vision of a cross in the sky and the words: *In hoc signo vinces*.

325

First Ecumenical **Council of Nicea** was convened by emperor Constantine: established the Nicene Creed as the fundamental statement of Christian faith.

336

Arius, priest at Alexandria and founder of **Arianism**, died. Arianism was one of the most widespread and divisive heresies in the history of Christianity.

350

Christianity first reached Ethiopia.

351

Emperor Julian attempted to reintroduce paganism in the place of Christianity.

367

Festal Epistle of **St. Athanasius** offered earliest known list of the New Testament canon in its current form.

372

Buddhism was introduced into Korea.

380

Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire under the reign of **Theodosius I**.

381

First Council of Constantinople. Convened by Theodosius I, then emperor of the East and a recent convert, to confirm the victory over **Arianism**, the council drew up a dogmatic statement on the Trinity and defined Holy Spirit as having the same divinity expressed for the Son by the Council of Nicaea 56 years earlier.

395

The Roman Empire was divided again between East and West, setting the stage for the eventual division of the Christian Church. Latin Christianity was based in Rome under the leadership of the popes, while Eastern Orthodoxy develops in the east in Constantinople under the leadership of patriarchs.

401

Innocent I became Pope (until 417) and claims universal jurisdiction over the Roman Church.

c. 405

St. Jerome completed the Vulgate - a Latin translation of both the Old and New Testaments. This remains the Latin Bible of the Roman Catholic Church.

410

Lead by **Alaric**, the Goths sacked Rome.

418

British monk **Pelagius** was excommunicated. Pelagius denied original sin and the need for baptism, asserting that if God asked men to do good, then they must be capable of doing good on their own. He was condemned by Augustine.

431

Ecumenical **Council of Ephesus** denounced the teachings of Nestorius (d. 451), who argued that Christ had completely separate human and divine natures.

433

Attila became ruler of the Huns (until 453).

451

Attila invaded Gaul but was repulsed by joint forces of Franks, Alemanni and Romans at battle of Chalons. Attila invaded Italy the next year.

Church of the Dark Ages (476-850 AD)

480

St. Benedict begins his Monastic Rule, setting out regulations for the establishment of monasteries.

496

Clovis I, pagan King of the Franks, converts to the Catholic faith.

502

Pope Symmachus ruled that laymen should no longer vote for the popes and that only higher clergy should be considered eligible.

590

Pope Gregory the Great. Reforms Church structure and administration. Establishes Gregorian Chant.

596

Saint Augustine of Canterbury sent by Pope Gregory to evangelize the pagan English.

638

Christian Jerusalem and Syria conquered by Muslim armies.

642

Egypt falls to the Muslims, followed by the rest of North Africa.

664

The Synod of Whitby unites the Celtic Church in England with the Catholic Church.

711

Muslim armies invade Spain

718

Saint Boniface, an Englishman, given commission by **Pope Gregory II** to evangelize the Germans.

726

Iconoclasm begins in the eastern Empire. The destruction of images persists until 843.

732

Muslim advance into Western Europe halted by **Charles Martel** at Poitiers, France.

756

Popes granted independent rule of Rome by **King Pepin the Short** of the Franks.

793

Sacking of the monastery of Lindisfarne marks the beginning of Viking raids on Christian Europe.

800

King Charlemagne of the Franks is crowned Holy Roman Emperor in the West by **Pope Leo III**.

Church of the Middle Ages (400-1499 AD)

801

Bishop Ansgar begins evangelization of North Germany and Denmark.

829

Ansgar begins missionary work in Sweden near Stockholm.

863

Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius sent by the Patriarch of Constantinople to evangelize the Slavic peoples. They translate the Bible into Slavonic.

910

Great Benedictine monastery of Cluny rejuvenates western monasticism. Monasteries spread throughout the isolated regions of Western Europe.

1003

Pope John XVII dies 5 months after installation, making this year one of the few when 3 legitimate popes reigned.

1054

Liturgical and other divisions cause a permanent split between the Eastern and Western Churches, known as the Great Schism.

1095

Pope Urban II preaches a Crusade to defend the eastern Christians, and pilgrims to the Holy Land at the Council of Clermont.

1098

Foundation of the reforming monastery of Citeaux, leads to the growth of the Cistercian order.

1099

Recapture of Jerusalem by the 1st Crusade.

1054

The Great Schism occurs between the Eastern and Western Churches. Two major issues include Rome's claim to a universal papal supremacy and her addition of the *filioque* clause to the Nicene Creed. The Photian schism (880) further complicated the debate.

1095

The Crusades begun by the Roman Church. The Sack of Constantinople by Rome during the Fourth Crusade (1204) adds to the estrangement between East and West.

c. 1380

John Wycliffe began the first English translation of the Bible.

1144

The Saint Denis Basilica of Abbot Suger is the first major building in the style of Gothic architecture.

1205

Saint Francis of Assisi becomes a hermit, founding the Franciscan order of friars.

1229

Inquisition founded in response to Cathar heresy, at the Council of Toulouse.

1231

Charter of the University of Paris granted by **Pope Gregory IX**.

1305

French influence causes the Pope to move from Rome to Avignon.

1370

Saint Catherine of Siena calls on the Pope to return to Rome.

1378

Western Schism. Opposing Popes elected in Avignon and Rome.

Church of the Renaissance (1500-1629 AD)

1517

Martin Luther nails his 95 Theses to the door of the Roman Church in Wittenberg, starting the Protestant Reformation.

1520

Martin Luther created his German translation of the New Testament.

1526

William Tyndale created his English version of the Pentateuch.

1529

Church of England begins pulling away from Rome.

1534

Saint Ignatius of Loyola and six others, including **Francis Xavier** met in Montmartre outside Paris to found the missionary Jesuit Order.

1536 to 1540

Dissolution of the Monasteries in England, Wales and Ireland.

1540

Pope Paul III confirmed the order of the Society of Jesus.

1545 to [1563]

Council of Trent convened, to prepare the Catholic response to the Protestant Reformation. Its rulings set the tone of Catholic society for in least three centuries.

1560

The Geneva Bible was created. This version was the one used by Shakespeare and also by the Pilgrims who came to the United States on the Mayflower.

1568

St. John Chrysostom, St. Basil, St. Gregory Nazianzus, St. Athanasius and St. Thomas Aquinas all made Doctors of the Church.

1577

Teresa of Avila writes *The Interior Castle*, one of the classic works of Catholic mysticism

1582

Beginning of the Gregorian Calendar and adoption of it by Italy, Spain, and Portugal

1582

Douay Version of the New Testament (English translation) was completed. After the Old Testament translation was completed in 1610, this became the first English translation of the Bible authorized by and for Roman Catholics.

1593

Robert Bellarmine finishes his *Disputationes de controversiis christianae fidei*

1598

Papal role in Peace of Vervins

1604

King James (1566 - 1625) of England commissioned the "King James" translation of the Bible.

Church of the Age of Reason (1630-1799 AD)

1655

Queen Christina of Sweden confirmed in baptism by Pope Alexander VII

1685

Louis XIV revokes The Edict of Nantes in hopes of currying Papal favor

1691

Pope Innocent XII declares against nepotism and simony

1713

Encyclical **Unigenitus** condemns Jansenism

1715

Clement XI rules against the Jesuits in the Chinese Rites controversy

1721

Kangxi Emperor bans Christian missions in China

1738

Grey Nuns founded

1769

Passionist order granted full rights by **Clement XIV**

1773

Suppression of the Jesuits

1793

French Republican Calendar and anti-clerical measures

1794

Missionaries arrive on Kodiak Island in Alaska; Orthodoxy introduced to North America

1798

Pope Pius VI taken prisoner

19th Century Catholic Church

1870

First Vatican Council issues the dogma of papal infallibility among other issues before the fall of Rome in the Franco-Prussian War causes it to end prematurely and brings an end to the Papal States. Controversy over several issues leads to the formation of the Old Catholic Church.

20th Century Catholic Church

1929

The Lateran treaties establish an independent Vatican City resolving the dispute with Italy since the seizure of the Papal States in 1870.

1939

World War II begins in Europe. The Vatican declares neutrality to avoid being drawn into the conflict and also to avoid occupation by the Italian military.

1944

The German Army occupies Rome. Adolf Hitler proclaims he will respect Vatican neutrality; however several incidents, such as Vatican aide to down Allied airmen, nearly cause Nazi Germany to invade the Vatican. Rome is liberated by the Allies after only a few weeks of occupation.

1950

The Assumption of Mary is adopted as dogma.

1962-1965

Second Vatican Council, the 21st Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church, brought many changes including making the services more relevant by using native languages instead of Latin. This gave rise to the Traditionalist Catholics who disagree with changing the old forms of worship.

1978

Pope John Paul II becomes the first non-Italian pope in 450 years.

1983

New Code of Canon Law Promulgated

1994

Catechism of the Catholic Church Promulgated.

21st Century Catholic Church

2005

Pope John Paul II dies; Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger elected as Pope Benedict XVI.

2013

On February 28, **Pope Benedict vacates Chair of St. Peter, the first time** this had taken place voluntarily since Gregory XII did so in 1415 at the Council of Florence (the end of the Great Western Schism) and Clement V did so in 1294.

On March 13, Jorge Bergoglio was elected as **Pope Francis**, the first Latin America pope ever elected.