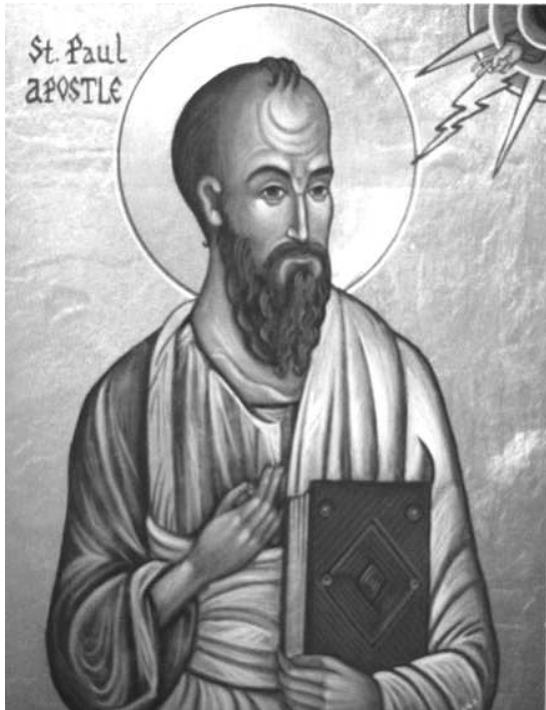


Junior High

Missionary Spirit and Church History

Task 6: Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society



Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Lesson One *∞* **Junior High Church History**

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher's Notes |
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| | <p>Introduction to Church History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study of the history of our Faith is very important; it teaches about our past and helps to form our future in a way that is faithful to what God has revealed over the centuries. • In the study of Church history the saints play a highly significant role. They are the people who spread the Good News of Christ to all corners of the earth. It is the saints who are the missionaries of the Church who, through their willing hands, brought the saving love of Christ to all people. Through the story of the Church it will be seen that the saints act as missionaries in many different ways. Some to go foreign lands to preach the Gospel, some stay in their home towns, others lead contemplative lives and spread God's love through their prayer. • The Catholic Church is a missionary Church because each member of the Body of Christ is called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. Each person has the responsibility to missionary activity. Most Christians participate in the Church's missionary call by living a good, holy life and performing good works for the poor and helpless around them. • When studying history it is important to remember that it is a story of humankind. As we know from our Faith, mankind is sinful, is weak, and makes mistakes. Even when the people in the Church strayed from God's plan, God remained with the Church He founded. It is the <i>people</i> in the Church who sinned, not the Church Herself. • However, history is not <i>just</i> the story of humankind; it is also the story of God's redeeming love for people. His love was so strong that He called Abraham, the father of God's chosen people, out of the desert and made Abraham's descendants His chosen people. He led His chosen people when they were faithful and did not abandon them when they sinned. Through Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, God brought salvation to all people. In the fullness of time He sent His only Son into the world to suffer and die for each person's | |

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| | sins so that all people would be drawn back to Him. The study of Church history then is the study of how God's love intervenes in the lives of humankind to bring all people to perfection in Christ. It is the story of salvation. | |
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Lesson Two *œ* **A.D. 33 – 100: Founding of the Church**

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher's Notes |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19). With these words Christ instituted the Church on earth. In the early years of Christianity the Apostles and their followers began to discuss the beliefs taught to them by Christ and began to write them down for future generations. <p>Important Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While on earth Jesus Christ instituted the Church placing St. Peter as the head, the rock, of the Church. • Jesus revealed the Holy Spirit to the Church at Pentecost which empowered the apostles to go forth and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, the kerygma. • Very early in Christian history persecution of Christians began. St. Stephen was the first Christian martyr. The Jewish leadership believed that the Christians were committing blasphemy by calling Jesus Christ God. One such leader who violently persecuted Christians was Saul, later known as St. Paul. • Each of the apostles went to a different corner of the earth so that all people could hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. They believed that Jesus was coming again soon. • When questions began to arise concerning what it meant to be a Christian all the apostles met in Jerusalem to discuss these important issues. Some of the early apostles believed that the Gentiles needed to become a Jew and follow the laws of the Old Covenant before they could become a Christian. However, others, such as St. Paul, argued that Jesus Christ founded a New Covenant and it was sufficient to repent and be baptized to become a Christian. In the end it was decided that a person did not need to follow the laws of the Jewish ceremonial laws to be a Christian. This gathering of the apostles is known as the Council of Jerusalem (circa A.D. 50). | |

- When the apostles and disciples realized that the second coming was not imminent they began to write down all they had witnessed. The four **Gospels** and the Letters of Paul were all written from A.D. 50 to 100.
- All of the twelve apostles, with the exception of St. John were martyred for their great faith.
- Before each apostle died, he appointed successors to carry out the mission that Christ had given them. Our **bishops** today are successors of the early apostles. This is called **Apostolic Succession**.

Saints

- **St. Peter** – St. Peter, the first pope to be appointed head of the Church, established many local churches. We know that he spent some time in Jerusalem and Antioch. His life ended as a bishop in Rome where he was crucified upside-down. The Catholic Church is centered in Rome because that is where Peter, the first **Pope**, lived and died. There are two major feast days that celebrate St. Peter. On February 22nd the Church celebrates the Chair of Saint Peter, recognizing the authority over the Church given to Peter from Christ. On June 29th the feast of Saints Peter and Paul is celebrated. *St. Peter lived his missionary call by actively and courageously spreading the Gospel through preaching and instruction.*
- **St. Paul** – One day, while on a journey to Damascus to persecute the Christians, Saul was thrown from his horse. Jesus appeared to Saul in a vision and told him to, “stop persecuting me.” From that time on Paul, formerly Saul, became one of the greatest missionaries to the Gentiles. Paul willingly gave his life rather than reject his faith. Paul was beheaded outside the walls of Rome. Paul’s conversion is celebrated on January 25th. He shares a second feast day with St. Peter on June 29th. *St. Paul lived his missionary call by sharing the Gospel with the world through preaching and instruction.*

Lesson Three ❧ A.D. 100 – 300: Growth Amid Persecution

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher's Notes |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One early Christian observed that the “blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church.” In the early years of the Catholic Church, Christians were heavily persecuted by Jews and Romans alike. Throughout this era, Christians were able to have the courage to stay true to the Faith despite the threat of death. Unfortunately, very early in the Church some people began to teach erroneously. The Church Fathers, wanting no one to be led astray, were quick to define what the Church believed. <p>Important Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians not only faced persecution from the Jewish leadership of the time but were also mistreated by the Roman Empire. Neither modern day Jews nor modern day Romans bear guilt for the sins of their fathers and most certainly should not be punished or mistreated by Christians. At this time, Roman law required that all people under Roman rule worship Roman gods. Christians who refused to worship these Roman gods were martyred for their disobedience. • One particularly violent persecution began in 64 when Nero was the emperor of the Roman Empire. A large fire was set in Rome that resulted in the destruction of half the city. Nero needed scapegoat to explain this tragedy. He knew that the Christians were already despised and blamed the fire on the Christians which resulted in even worse persecutions. • In 250, the first empire wide persecution began under the Emperor Decius. Before this time, persecutions were sporadic and regionally located. During these intense persecutions, there were many brave people who gave their lives rather than deny their faith. They are called martyrs. Those who face martyrdom rather than reject their faith are saints because they are willing to give everything they have for the sake of Christ. • When Emperor Diocletian came into power, he renewed the persecutions against the Christians. The persecutions under Emperor Diocletian were some of the most violent persecutions in Church history. • During this time of persecution, the faithful Christians in Rome would secretly gather together in the catacombs to pray and worship God. The Christian | |

catacombs are a series of underground passages where Christians would gather to worship and to bury the martyrs. These catacombs can still be visited today in Rome.

- Along with the harsh persecutions, the Church faced another very serious problem, the misinterpretation of Jesus' teaching. One very early misinterpretation, which was declared a **heresy**, was **Gnosticism**. The Gnostics believed that they had been given a special knowledge (*gnosis*) not available to everyone. The Gnostics taught many things about Jesus that the Church declared untrue.
- During this time there were many wise and intelligent men, called the **Apostolic Fathers**, who wrote great works on the faith and taught many people about Christianity.

Saints

- **St. Ignatius of Antioch** – One of the great Apostolic Fathers is St. Ignatius of Antioch. He was a bishop in Antioch after St. Peter founded the Church there. The Roman authorities discovered that St. Ignatius was a Christian so they imprisoned him and sent him to Rome to be martyred. On his way to Rome, St. Ignatius wrote seven letters each addressed to one of the churches in the cities he passed through. He exhorted them to follow their faith despite the difficulties of doing so. We still have copies of these letters today. His feast day is celebrated on October 17th. *St. Ignatius lived his missionary call by writing letters which shared the good news of the Christian faith.*
- **St. Polycarp of Smyrna** – Another Apostolic Father is St. Polycarp of Smyrna. It is said that he was a disciple of St. John the Apostle. He was bishop of Smyrna in what is modern day Turkey. When authorities discovered that he was a Christian, they led him to death by fire. Like St. Ignatius, we have several copies of letters St. Polycarp wrote even to this day. St. Polycarp's feast day is remembered in the Church on February 23rd. *St. Polycarp lived his missionary call by writing letter which shared the faith. He preferred to die rather than to deny the truth about Christ.*
- **Saints Perpetua and Felicitas** – Saints Perpetua and Felicitas were holy women who were martyred in northern Africa in the third century. Both women were young mothers who refused to worship the Roman gods. Even though their families begged them to reject their Christian beliefs they refused to renounce their faith. For this, these women along with other faithful Christians were fed

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| | <p>to wild beasts. They are wonderful models of courage and faithfulness to God. Their feast day is celebrated on March 7th. <i>St. Perpetua and St. Felicitas lived their missionary call by refusing to deny Christ in their lives. They witnessed the truth of Christ to others by willingly giving their lives rather than deny what they knew was true.</i></p> | |
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Lesson Four *œ* **300 – 450: Fathers of the Church**

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher's Notes |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The age of the Fathers of the Church brought sweeping changes to the Roman world and to Christianity. When Christianity was legalized by Emperor Constantine, new ways of holiness began to be prominent. No longer focusing on remaining hidden, the Church began the process of clarifying what She believed. <p>Important Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 313, the Emperor Constantine had a vision of the cross helping him to win a battle. As a response to his dream he made Christianity legal in the Roman Empire. The law he enacted to make Christianity legal is known as the Edict of Milan. • Once Christianity was legal and the mass persecutions ended, the Church began to worship in and create churches for the purpose of the liturgy. • At this same time, there were many holy men who desired to give their entire lives to Christ, just like the martyrs, so they went into the desert to fast and pray. By dying to their own desires they embraced a living martyrdom. One such man is St. Antony of the Desert. After his parents died when he was twenty, he left all that he had and went to the Egyptian desert to live a life of penance. Very soon many heard of his holiness and began to imitate his way of life. He is known as the father of western monasticism. • Another influential man who embraced desert monasticism is St. Pachomius. He created a rule for monks living in community in the desert. He is known as the father of communal monasticism. • Although the holy men and women of the Church, especially martyrs, were always honored, the fourth and fifth centuries saw the rise of the Cult of the Saints, a special veneration of the saints. Local groups of people began to honor and celebrate Saints who had impacted their lives or the lives of their ancestors. • Once Christianity was legal and it was no longer a fight to simply survive, the great bishops and preachers of the Church were able to spend their time | |

teaching and developing a deeper understanding of the faith.

- As people began to speak about the faith, some preached correct theology and others began teaching things that were contrary to the faith. These false teachings were called heresies.
- In order to combat these heresies, the Church held **Ecumenical Councils**. At these councils with the Fathers of the Church, holy men gathered from the entire known world, discussed and clarified what Christ taught and thus, what the Church believed. They did not create or change doctrine, but they developed its understanding. One way in which they did this was to write **creeds** explaining the faith in a concise manner.
- In 325, the First Ecumenical Council was held in Nicaea and is known as the **Council of Nicaea**. At this council the Fathers of the Church discussed what the Church really believed about Jesus Christ. A group of men at the council believed that the **Son of God**, Jesus Christ, was not fully divine. This belief came to be known as **Arianism**. However, the Church reflected and studied what Jesus had told them and declared that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. They labeled Arianism as a heresy.
- The **Council of Constantinople** was held in 381 and was the Second Ecumenical Council. Although the Church had officially condemned Arianism, the heresy continued to grow in the Church. At this Council, the Church Fathers reaffirmed their statement against Arianism.
- The next Ecumenical Council was the **Council of Ephesus**, held in 431. This Council condemned **Nestorianism** which taught that Jesus was two persons, a divine person and a human person. The Church Fathers rejected this position and explained that Jesus was one person with two natures, one divine and one human.
- In 451, the Church held the Fifth Ecumenical **Council at Chalcedon**. After the Council of Ephesus, a monk began to state that Jesus was indeed divine but not human. This council reaffirmed what it stated at the Council of Ephesus; Jesus is one person with two natures: one human and one divine.
- Also during this time, the fall of the Roman Empire was in progress. One sign of the failing empire was the attack of Rome in 452 by the northern Germanic tribes led by Attila the Hun. When the Huns were attacking Rome, Pope Leo I stopped their advance and convinced them to spare Rome.

- As the Roman Empire crumbled, the two halves of the Empire began to feel tension. As the Empire split, language became a problem as the west adopted Latin and the east favored Greek. There were several issues that directly affected the Church. The first issue was the papacy. The west had always seen the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, as the head of the Bishops, while the east saw the Bishop of Rome as merely symbolic. Another issue that divided the Church in the west and east was the version of the Creed used.

Saints

- **St. Augustine of Hippo** – During this era of councils there were many men who fought for the truth even when it caused troubles for them. One such man is St. Augustine of Hippo. St. Augustine was not always such a holy man. As a young adult he led a very wild life. Through the intercession of his mother, St. Monica, God brought St. Augustine to the Catholic faith. St. Augustine eventually became the Bishop of Hippo in modern day Africa. He wrote many documents in defense of the Church and was known for his homilies. He is honored as a **Doctor of the Church**. Doctors of the Church are Saints who have lived holy lives and made great contributions to the faith through their writing and/or preaching. We celebrate his feast day on August 28th. *St. Augustine lived his missionary call through his preaching and writing. He would give wonderful homilies which inspired many to join the Church.*
- **St. Monica** – St. Monica was St. Augustine’s mother. She was a woman of prayer and patience. Although she had an unhappy marriage she loved and prayed for her husband and children. She often prayed specifically for their conversion. Before her husband died, he became a Christian. Later her son, St. Augustine, also became Christian. Her feast day is August 27th. *St. Monica lived her missionary call through her prayer. The missionary call is to spread the Gospel. St. Monica spread the Gospel by living a life modeled after Christ and praying for the conversion of her spouse and children.*
- **St. Jerome** – Another very holy man of this era was St. Jerome. St. Jerome is best known for his translation of the Bible into Latin from its original languages. This work is known as the **Vulgate**, and was the official version of the Catholic Bible for hundreds of years. Although he is widely known for the Vulgate, St. Jerome was also a great **apologist** and defender of the Catholic faith. The Church celebrates him on September 30th. *St. Jerome lived his missionary call by studying the faith and defending its truth to those who did not understand it. He ensured that people of all times would know Sacred Scripture by translating it into Latin, the official language of the Church.*

Lesson Five *œ* **450 – 1100: Roman Church of the West**

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher's Notes |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the late fifth century, the Roman Empire continued to crumble due to a weak government and invading Germanic tribes from the north. Through God's grace the Church had very strong and capable supreme pontiffs at this time who were an essential force in keeping order and caring for the needs of the people. <p>Important Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One way that the Church helped to care for the people was through the developing monasteries which evangelized, stabilized and educated the people. Monastery schools were especially vital for the continuing education of the population of Europe at this time. • As tensions mounted between the Church and the state, Pope Gelasius I answered the question as to who had authority over the people in spiritual matters by stating that the Pope and the Church had supreme authority over spiritual matters. • In 496, the Frankish emperor, Clovis, was baptized a Christian. This was a very significant event for Christianity because in this era when a leader converted all of his subjects were expected to convert as well. • Early in the sixth century, Muhammad began the religion that is known today as Islam. The Islamic religion, like Christianity, believes in one God but has many other beliefs that contradict Catholic teaching. • Soon after its beginning, Islam became a religion infamous for warfare. Beginning with Mecca and moving westward the Muslims began to engage in battles to conquer other nations. • One decisive battle that was won against the Muslims occurred in 732 when Charles Martel, the Frankish king, was victorious in battle. This battle, known as the Battle of Tours, was an important victory because it halted the Islamic advance into Christian territory. As Muslims advanced into Christian territory they made the practice of Christian faith very difficult. | |

- In the year 800, Charlemagne, the new Frankish king, spent Christmas in Rome with the Pope. On Christmas day, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne the Holy Roman Emperor. By crowning Charlemagne, Pope Leo III gained political power for the Church because his actions implied that the pope had the power to appoint emperors.
- In 910, a wave of reform spread throughout the western Church. This reform began at Cluny, a small monastery in modern day France. The leaders of **Cluniac Reform** adopted the **Rule of St. Benedict** with some minor alterations, such as a heavier focus on prayer. This reform helped to return the monastic life to a life of prayer.
- St. Leo IX, who was pope during the 1050's, was greatly interested in reforming the Church to ensure that it was following the true Gospel of Christ. Pope Leo IX began the reform that came to be known as the **Gregorian Reform**.
- In 1054, the first major split in Christianity occurred: the Eastern and the Western halves of the empire became two churches instead of one. There were multiple issues that influenced this split including: the primacy of the Pope, the version of the Creed that was used as well as many other issues. The Western Church continued to be known as the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Church became known as the Orthodox Church. Sometimes this is called the **Great Schism of the Eastern and Western Church**.
- In the late 1070's and early 1080's, the Gregorian Reform reached its high point with its namesake Pope Gregory VII. St. Gregory insisted upon ridding the Church of the abuses that had crept in. There were basically two reforms that took place during this time: the reform of the clergy and reform of the relationship of the secular leader and the pope. Pope Gregory's greatest desire in promoting these reforms was to ensure that the Church was a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.
 - * The reform of the clergy rid the Church of three main abuses: simony, **lay investiture**, and the practice of priests marrying.
 - ~ Lay investiture is when a secular leader appoints a religious authority, such as a priest or bishop. In return, the newly appointed person was expected to pay the man who appointed him. The secular leaders at the time wanted to secure their power so they chose bishops and priests who supported their reign. However, this was a significant abuse because bishops and priests should be chosen based upon their holiness and commitment to

the Gospel rather than their commitment to the reigning political power.

~ Closely tied to lay investiture was the practice of simony. Simony is when a religious object, a sacrament, or a Church position is sold.

~ In this time many priests were not respecting their vow of chastity and were marrying. The Gregorian Reform insisted that these men cease their priestly duties.

* The reform of the relationship between the pope and the secular leader attempted to establish the rights of the pope. In many cases secular rulers believed that they had more control over Church affairs than did the pope. To clarify what duties belonged exclusively to the pope, Pope Gregory VII published a list of papal rights and duties. While this did not end the problems it was one large step towards a solution.

Saints

- **St. Benedict** – During this time period many important monks founded the great monasteries we still know today. One great monk of this time was St. Benedict. St. Benedict is known for creating the Rule of St. Benedict, which is still used today. The Rule of St. Benedict is best summarized as “pray and work.” This Rule directed the monks in how they should conduct their daily lives. The Church remembers St. Benedict on July 11th. *St. Benedict lived his missionary call by gathering together monks who worked and prayed for the conversion of the entire world.*
- **St. Columban** – Another great monk was St. Columban who was born wealthy yet chose to live a life of poverty. He and several of his friends left Ireland to be missionaries to France. When he was expelled from France due to a new hostile government he went to Italy. In Italy, St. Columban established the famous monastery at Bobbio. St. Columban, like St. Benedict, wrote a rule for his monks. His rule was used for many years. St. Columban’s feast day is November 23rd. *St. Columban lived his missionary call by leaving his home and going to a foreign land to teach those who were unfamiliar with the Gospel message.*
- **St. Boniface** – In 719, St. Boniface, an Englishman, traveled to what is now Germany to evangelize the people. St. Boniface was extremely successful in converting the Germanic peoples. He is most famous for proving the ineffectiveness of pagan gods. It is said that St. Boniface cut down a tree that many considered to be a god just to show the people that there is only one God,

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| | <p>the Christian God. St. Boniface's feast is celebrated on June 5th. <i>St. Boniface lived his missionary call by leaving his home and willingly going to a dangerous place to share the good news of Christ with the Germanic peoples.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saints Cyril and Methodius – In 863, two great saints, Cyril and Methodius, ventured to what is now Eastern Europe to evangelize the Slavic people. While working with the people they created the Cyrillic alphabet so that the Sacred Scriptures could be written in the native language of the people. Although they encountered great resistance, they persevered and helped to bring Christ to the area. Cyril and Methodius, along with St. Benedict, are the patron Saints of Europe. Their feast is celebrated on February 14th. <i>St. Cyril and St. Methodius lived their missionary call by bringing the message of Christ to a new culture. Through their worked a new alphabet was created so that the native people could read Scripture and celebrate the liturgy in their own language.</i> | |
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Lesson Six *œ* **1100 – 1300: Middle Ages**

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher's Notes |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Middle Ages were a time of hardship for the average Christian as plague, famine and war were part of their everyday lives. Although the people of this era made mistakes, the importance of the intellectual and spiritual wisdom of this time should not be overlooked. <p>Important Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crusades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Starting in 1095, the Church launched a series of eight major crusades. ~ The crusades were initiated to gain greater control of the Holy Land so that pilgrims desiring to walk where Jesus walked could travel freely to Jerusalem. ~ The crusades were militarily unsuccessful. There were times when the crusader armies would gain territory but by the end of the crusading efforts there was no land gained. ~ Possibly, the most regrettable aspect of the crusades was the sack of Constantinople. The crusaders originally entered Constantinople at the pleas of the Eastern Empire to save them from the invading Muslim Turks. However, an unruly group turned against their orders and attacked and looted the city. ~ Culturally, the crusades helped to shape Western intellectual thought because the crusades provided a unique opportunity for the West to come into contact with the philosophy and writings of the ancient Greeks. • Cathedrals were hugely important in the Middle Ages. A local cathedral was not only a place of worship but also a community gathering place, a center of learning, and a place for catechesis. • In the Middle Ages, the majority of the people in Western Europe were Catholic. Thus, the cathedral became a great meeting place for people. In fact, the cathedral was usually located in the center of town and the businesses and homes grew up around the cathedral. | |

- There is a popular misconception that in the Middle Ages all intellectual activity ceased. However, this is not the case. The seeds for the most famous advances were planted in this era. In fact, the concept of universities was born during this time. Initially, the cathedral was a place where the choir boys and those preparing for priesthood were educated. As time went on the wealthy began to enroll their children for education. Gradually, more and more schooling was done at the cathedral until the university emerged.
- Between the years 1123 and 1215, there were four Ecumenical Councils held in the Lateran Palace in Rome. Each of these Councils dealt with a different heresy that was being taught at the time. At the Third Lateran Council the **College of Cardinals** became the body that elected the next pope. The most important of these councils was the Fourth Lateran Council because it officially defined **transubstantiation**.
- The twelfth century was the age of the **mendicant orders**. At this time society had become increasingly focused on wealth and was losing its Christian foundation. The mendicant orders willingness to embrace poverty and simplicity of life taught people that God is more important than material possessions. Two very popular mendicant orders are the Dominicans and the Franciscans.
- The infamous **Inquisition** began in 1231. The Inquisition was a series of trials, similar to secular trials today, in the mid-thirteenth century. At these trials a friar, usually a Dominican, tried and punished those guilty of heresy. The main purpose of the Inquisition was to rid the Church and the world of heresy because it was disruptive to not only Church life but also the culture in general. The Inquisition was not nearly as cruel as is sometimes suggested. In most cases, a person who was declared a heretic was not punished physically, rather they were given a series of spiritual exercises such as prayer.

Saints

- **St. Bernard of Clairvaux** – St. Bernard of Clairvaux was a very influential monk in the early twelfth century. He joined the Cistercian Order and was chosen to found a new monastery. The monastery he founded at Clairvaux became an important center for the Cistercians. St. Bernard himself was known for giving advice to Church leaders as well as secular leaders. He is also known for his defending the Faith from all heresy. St. Bernard's feast day is celebrated by the Church on August 20th. *St. Bernard lived his missionary call by sharing his wisdom with those around him. He also spread the Gospel message by*

defending the true teachings of the Church against heresy.

- **St. Francis of Assisi** – St. Francis lived a very privileged life until his early twenties when he underwent a dramatic conversion. After his conversion St. Francis rejected the wealth of his father, gave away all he owned and begged for what he needed. Soon other men began to follow St. Francis’ simple way of life. These men joined him and became the Order of Friars Minor. The early Franciscans were wonderful missionaries and were skilled at spreading the Gospel and diffusing heresy. St. Francis is one of the first Saints to have received the **stigmata**. St. Francis’ feast day is celebrated on October 4th. *St. Francis lived his missionary call by giving up his wealth and preaching to all those who would listen. Many converted to Catholicism because of St. Francis’ dynamic preaching.*
- **St. Clare** – St. Francis inspired many, including St. Clare. St. Clare, like St. Francis, was born into a wealthy family. At a young age she knew that she wanted to devote her life to God so she refused to marry. After hearing of St. Francis she joined him and created a religious order called the Poor Clares to help evangelize the world through prayer. St. Clare is remembered on August 11th. *St. Clare lived her missionary call through her prayer. As we know, prayer is essential in the life of the Church. St. Clare’s prayers helped to spread the good news.*
- **St. Dominic** – St. Dominic was born into a wealthy family, but chose to forsake his wealth and become a priest. For many years he assisted his bishop in fighting heresy. When the bishop, died St. Dominic desired to form an order devoted to the conversion of heretics. The order he established, the Order of Preachers also known as the Dominicans, did just that. Their main charism is spreading the good news of the Gospel through preaching. The feast of St. Dominic is on August 8th. *St. Dominic lived his missionary call by preaching to all those around him and inviting others to join him in this mission.*
- **St. Thomas Aquinas** – One very famous Dominican of this era was St. Thomas Aquinas. St. Thomas was a theologian and a philosopher who is still revered and studied today. He is primarily known for his multiple volume work *Summa Theologiae*, which is a comprehensive study of the Catholic faith. Because of his great writings he is recognized as a Doctor of the Church. There are currently 33 people, including three women, whom the Church honors by calling them Doctors of the Church. St. Thomas is remembered on January 28th. *St. Thomas lived his missionary call by writing and teaching about Christ. Good Catholic thinking helps to build up the Church and spread its good news of Christ.*

Lesson Seven *œ* **1300 – 1500: Renaissance and Reform**

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher's Notes |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The age of the Renaissance and Reform began as a new flowering of culture and art. It is during this age that the great painters and sculptors perfected their craft. However, it remained a very difficult time for the average Christian because the plague, famine, and war of the Middle Ages endured. The true tragedy of this age is the wound that resulted in Christian unity after the Protestant Reformation. Important Events • In 1309, the Frenchman Pope Clement V was elected. This angered the Roman people who desired to have a Roman pope. Afraid of the wrath of the Roman people, Pope Clement V chose to live in Avignon, France instead of Rome. The next seven popes who followed him chose to remain in Avignon. This was a great scandal in the Church because bishops are supposed to reside in their dioceses. The pope is the bishop of Rome and thus should reside in Rome. • This situation may have continued indefinitely if not for a strong willed young woman named St. Catherine of Siena. St. Catherine pleaded with Pope Gregory XI, the current pontiff, to stop the scandal and return to Rome. After many years of convincing he finally moved back to Rome. • When Pope Gregory XI died in 1378, the cardinals held a conclave electing Pope Urban VI. When Pope Urban VI became pope and did not move the papacy back to Avignon, as the French cardinals desired, these cardinals tried to declare the election invalid. They then elected Clement VII who moved back to Avignon. This too was a great scandal in the Church because the world now had two men claiming to be pope. This situation was very confusing for the average Christian because they did not know who to look to for spiritual formation with two claimants on the papal throne. • Many of the cardinals saw this problem and decided to hold another conclave to elect a pope who they would back as the true pope. In 1409, they elected Alexander V. However, this did not solve the problem because neither the Roman pope nor the pope in Avignon would resign. So the world had three men all claiming to be pope. Finally, in 1417, Martin V was elected as the rightful | |

- pope. These sad events are known as the **Great Schism of the Papacy**.
- The age of the **Renaissance** and Reform was a time of significant intellectual advancements, great cultural flourishing, and religious tensions.
 - The Renaissance began in Italy in the late 1300's. Some of the greatest achievements of the Renaissance were in art. The Catholic Church was a noteworthy contributor to the arts. At a time when literacy was still very low, the art in churches told the story of salvation.
 - In all ages, the Church aims to catechize her children and to spread the faith. In the late Middle Ages and early years of the Renaissance, the cathedral was the main place of learning and catechesis. In the Middle Ages, the majority of people could not read, but the Church did not let that stop Her in educating Her children about the faith. Instead of written works, the Church catechized by telling Bible stories in the stained glass windows of the Church, paintings and through plays aimed to teach a lesson. Some of the famous artists who were commissioned by the Church are Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.
 - The age of the Renaissance was also an age of great reform. Many people began to see the need for reform in this era. Some stayed faithful to the Catholic Church and worked on reform from within while others broke away from the Catholic Church and tried to create reform through their own ecclesial communities. Many of these men and women who broke away from the Catholic Church did not see themselves as breaking away; rather, they believed that the Catholic Church had ceased to proclaim the truth of Christ and that they were continuing the true Church. However, as Catholics we believe that Christ stays with His Church even in the most difficult times.
 - In the late fourteenth century and early fifteenth century, two men appeared on the scene who began to question the Church's way of doing things. John Wycliffe was from England and Jan Hus was from Prague. Independent of each other they both challenged the Catholic Church's Eucharistic practices and preached strict reliance on Scripture.
 - **Martin Luther** was another reformer in this era who has made a lasting impact. Luther was a German Augustinian priest who, although he was devoted to many teachings of the Church, struggled intensely with others. Luther was deeply troubled by the abuses surrounding **indulgences**. Indulgences began very early in the Church as a way of obtaining penances so as to lessen some of the punishment of **purgatory**. One form of penance is giving alms to the poor. In Luther's time it was often viewed as merely paying one's way out of

punishment instead of truly a sorrowful penance.

- In 1517, he publicly addressed his struggles by posting his Ninety-five Theses on the church door in Wittenburg, Germany. In Luther's time posting notices on the church doors was a common occurrence. His Theses were an appeal to correct the many things he saw wrong in the Church, some which rightly needed to be reformed and others which did not.
- When he did not receive a satisfactory response from his own bishop he appealed to Rome. The pope, Pope Leo X responded by sending one of his cardinals to meet with Luther. Unfortunately, neither side was able to reach an agreement at this meeting.
- Pope Leo X took Luther's Theses very seriously and carefully examined them. He determined that forty-one of the ninety-five Theses were heretical; they taught things that were contrary to Church teaching. Pope Leo X, as a pastor, sent a special notice to Luther to ask him to reject the heretical statements. Luther refused to listen to the guidance of the Church and publicly burned the letter he received. It was these actions and the actions of others that led to the Protestant Reformation.
- In order to prevent the spread of heresy, Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther. Luther had begun his journey to bring reform to what he saw as areas that needed to be changed within the Church, and ended up denying some of the most important teachings that the Church held close.
- Ulrich Zwingli, a Swiss Catholic priest, gradually began to reject many of the tenets of Catholicism. Eventually he did away with all Church Tradition and declared that Scripture alone was enough. He felt that the Catholic Church's structure was no longer needed.
- John Calvin was another Swiss reformer. He also believed that Scripture was the only authority and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church was not needed.
- While all of this was going on in Southern Europe, trouble was brewing in the north. In 1535, when the pope refused to annul his marriage, King Henry VIII had the parliament declare himself leader over the church in England. This created the Church of England, or the Anglican Church.
- To address the Protestant ecclesial communities Pope Paul III called an Ecumenical Council, the **Council of Trent**.

- ~ The purpose of this council was twofold: to reunite with the Protestants and to reform the Catholic Church. When reunion with the Protestant ecclesial communities proved impossible the council set about reforming the Catholic Church.
- ~ Two main areas of reform were focused on during the Council of Trent. The first area of reform was doctrinal, the second disciplinary.
- ~ At the Council there was no new doctrine introduced, but rather a confirmation of the doctrinal points that were always believed in the Church and that were under attack during the Protestant Reformation. A few doctrinal issues that were affirmed at this Council were: the twofold nature of revelation composed of **Sacred Scripture** and **Sacred Tradition**, the belief that justification comes from the grace of God and the cooperation of mankind, an affirmation of the Seven Sacraments, and the teaching that the **Eucharist** is truly the **Body and the Blood of Christ**.
- ~ A few disciplinary issues addressed were: the pope's sole authority to appoint bishops and cardinals, the necessity that bishops must reside in their own dioceses and visit their flock on a regular basis, and the mandate that seminaries must be created in each diocese to form the priests.

- Amidst all the turmoil in this era, one of the most deadly diseases entered Europe, the **Black Death**. From the fourteenth century until the eighteenth century, this terrible disease inflicted Europe. The Black Death was a highly contagious disease that killed an estimated 50 percent of the European population. The people at this time believed that the plague was a punishment for their sins so popular religiosity, such as Marian devotions, grew tremendously. People believed that they could stop the plague by atoning for their sins through devotions to Mary and the Saints.

Saints

- **St. Robert Bellarmine** – St. Robert Bellarmine was born into a family of ten children. At a young age he decided to become a priest although his father would have rather he become a politician. Through his priestly studies, he became very highly educated and eventually taught as a professor in Rome. He is known as a skillful defender of the Catholic Church against the attacks of the Protestant Reformation. Although he gained great influence in the Church, and even became a cardinal, he embraced the call of poverty. It is said that he once

gave the fabric from his drapes to the poor in Rome so that they could be clothed. St. Robert is a Doctor of the Church. His feast is celebrated on September 17th. *St. Robert lived his missionary call through is teaching. He could have lived a wealthy life but instead he shared what he had with the poor and shared the good news of Christ through his actions as well as his words.*

- **St. Catherine of Siena** – St. Catherine of Siena was born into an average family; however, she soon distinguished herself as more than average when she began having visions as a young child. When she was a teenager she refused to marry and instead joined the Third Order Dominicans. Along with her visions and her **mystical spirituality**, she is known for convincing Pope Gregory XI to leave Avignon and return to his **See** in Rome. St. Catherine is one of the three female Doctors of the Church. Her feast is celebrated April 29th. *St. Catherine lived her missionary call by living a life modeled after Christ and being willing to confront wrong wherever she saw it.*

- **St. Teresa of Avila** – St. Teresa of Avila was born to a life of luxury. At twenty she joined the Carmelites. After joining the religious life, she began having visions and was inspired to reform her order which had grown lax in its practices. She is known for her great mystical writings and her holiness. St. Teresa is a Doctor of the Church. Her feast day is on October 5th. *St. Teresa lived her missionary call by devoting her life to prayer for the Church and its members who lived the active life. St. Teresa teaches us that prayer is just as important to the missionary spirit of the Church as is physically spreading the Gospel.*

Lesson Eight 1500 – 1700: Age of Exploration

(for more information on this age see “The Church in the United States”)

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher’s Notes |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The next age of the Church was an age of great exploration and missionary expansion. As Europe began to expand its influence westward, the Church endeavored to bring the good news of Christ to the people of the new western frontier. This age produced great missionary Saints who gave their entire lives, sometimes literally, to evangelize the world. <p>Important Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the years following Columbus’ voyage and discovery of the new world, Spain began to send explorers and missionaries to the new territory. The first diocese of the west was created in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in 1511.• Unfortunately, many of the Spanish colonists mistreated the native peoples in their quest for gold and land. However, the missionaries recognized the dignity of the natives and fought to protect them. One missionary who fought against this oppression was Bartolomé de las Casas. He made numerous trips across the Atlantic Ocean to plead with the king of Spain to make policies protecting the natives.• In 1618, the disunity that divided Protestants and Catholics again became clear as war broke out. For various reasons, Catholics and Protestants across Europe engaged in a series of wars that lasted from 1618 until 1648. These wars are now known as the Thirty Years War.• One type of explorer did not explore just the earth, but space as well. Galileo looked to the sky with wonder to discover more of God’s creation. Galileo, following Copernicus, believed that the earth revolved around the sun. The contemporary understanding was that the sun revolved around the earth. The Catholic Church was uncomfortable with this new assertion because many believed that the Bible said that the earth did not move and did not want to allow a belief that was contrary to Sacred Scripture. Contrary to popular belief, Galileo was never imprisoned or tortured. He was asked by the Church not to publish or promote his findings, and lived the rest of his life under house arrest in his home in Florence. As time progressed the Church grew to a deeper | |

understanding of the world and of Sacred Scripture and realized that science and faith are not in tension with one another. Rather, the truth of the physical world will never contradict the truths of the Faith because God is the author and creator of both. In 1992, Pope John Paul II officially acknowledged that Galileo was correct in stating that the earth revolved around the sun and apologized for the Church's unfair treatment of Galileo.

Saints

- **Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego** – In 1531, Mary the Mother of God appeared to poor St. Juan Diego in Guadalupe Mexico. Mary asked St. Juan to go to the bishop and have a chapel built on the site of her appearance. The bishop ridiculed Juan and told him that no chapel would be built. St. Juan was very discouraged. However, Mary appeared to him again and told him to go pick the roses on the hill, place them in his tilma, and go to see the bishop. When St. Juan appeared before the bishop a second time and released the roses from his tilma the beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared on his tilma. This time the bishop was convinced and built a chapel to honor Our Lady. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas. Her appearance converted many in America to Catholicism. The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th and the feast of Juan Diego is celebrated on December 9th. *Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan lived their missionary call by bringing the Gospel message to the indigenous people of Mexico at a time when they were having a hard time accepting it. This apparition brought possibly millions to the Catholic faith.*
- **St. Francis Xavier** – Francis Xavier was a great missionary priest. He was one of the founding members of the Society of Jesus. In 1542, he went to evangelize the people of India. Francis stayed in India for seven years and then moved on to Japan. He spent two years in Japan before desiring to move to China to do more evangelization. However, he died on his way to China in 1552. He was canonized a saint in 1622. We celebrate the feast of St. Francis on December 3rd. *St. Francis lived his missionary call by going to a foreign land to share the good news about Christ to those who had never even heard the name of Christ.*
- **St. Rose of Lima** – One amazing female saint of this era was St. Rose of Lima. St. Rose was born to Spanish parents living in Peru. St. Rose was an obedient child who enjoyed her lessons. After reading about St. Catherine of Siena, St. Rose decided to emulate her. St. Rose's days were filled with helping her family and her nights were dedicated to fasting and prayer. She is known to have received the Eucharist daily. When she grew older she refused to marry,

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| | <p>committing herself only to Christ. She chose to join the Third Order Dominicans. Saints like St. Rose are very important to the Church because they pray for the Church. St. Rose was canonized only 50 years after her death. On August 23rd the Church celebrates the feast of St. Rose. <i>St. Rose lived her missionary call through intense prayer and sacrifice for the good of the Church and of the success of the spreading of the Gospel to all nations.</i></p> | |
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Lesson Nine *œ* **1700 – 1850: Age of the Enlightenment**

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher's Notes |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| | <p>▪ The age of the Enlightenment was a very difficult age for the Church. New scientific theories were placing reason over faith and questioning the need for religion. The French Revolution was violently anti-Christian and tried to eradicate religion from Europe. However, throughout this difficult period in Europe the Church held strong to Her beliefs and survived.</p> <p>Important Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Enlightenment in Europe was characterized by the rejection of the old way of thinking. The Enlightenment rejected faith as the source of knowledge and substituted pure reason alone. One positive change that came about through the Enlightenment was the thinking of new philosophers who began to speak about freedoms rarely heard before, such as freedom of religion and freedom of speech. • The age of the Enlightenment opened with the Scientific Revolution. Following Galileo, the Scientific Revolution discovered many things about the physical world that were previously unknown. For example, Newton discovered the law of gravity and geologists discovered that the earth was really much older than previously thought. • One premise of the Scientific Revolution that greatly damaged faith was rationalism. Rationalism holds that knowledge and truth come from reason and not faith. The Catholic Church teaches that reason enlightens faith. Reason will not teach us something that is contrary to faith because God created a reasonable universe that serves to enlighten faith. Many of the scientists of this era were faithful Christians and did not intend to bring faith into question. However, some began to be misguided when their discoveries seemed to contradict what the Faith told them. • Another threat to the Faith during the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment was Deism. Deism is a belief that there is a God but He is not a person; He is removed from the world. Many compare the Deist belief about God to a watchmaker, who creates the watch and then leaves it to function on its own. • The age of the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment was an age of strong | |

monarchs. The monarchs of Europe began to embrace the principles of the philosophers. They began to allow freedom of religion in their territories and granted the people many freedoms that they had not enjoyed before this time.

- In the late eighteenth century, revolution was in the air. The principles of the Enlightenment caused people to desire more freedoms than the secular leaders were willing to give them. By 1775 the English colonies, in what is now called the United States, began to rebel.
- By 1789, Europe was thrown into disarray with the beginning of the **French Revolution**. Although the French Revolution occurred in France its effects were felt throughout Europe and the new world.
- The French Revolution began with the King calling the Estates General to try to solve the country's financial troubles. Very soon, events spiraled out of control and the Church became the target of the attacks.
 - ~ In 1790, the government seized control of the Church in France and took all of the Church's property and wealth.
 - ~ When the revolutionaries, who valued reason above all else, seized control of the government the Church was greatly persecuted.
 - ~ During the infamous Reign of Terror in France, being a member of the clergy could earn you death.
 - ~ As France began to conquer Europe the pope was banished from Rome and imprisoned.
 - ~ In 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte became the leader of the French government. He quickly did away with those who put him in power and claimed absolute control. He knew that to rule successfully he would need the pope as an ally. In 1801, Pope Pius VII and Napoleon signed the **Concordat of 1801** which stated that the pope was the leader of the Church and spiritual matters, while the secular leader had complete control of the government. This was beneficial to the Church because it was one of the first times that a secular leader had publicly proclaimed that the Pope alone was the head of the Church.
 - ~ When Pope Pius VII began to criticize Napoleon for his actions, Napoleon had him imprisoned. However, the pope did not concede and refused to give in to Napoleon's demands. Finally, in 1814, Napoleon was defeated and exiled.
 - ~ After the defeat of Napoleon the world was left to heal from the damage

done by the French Revolution.

~ The French Revolution produced many martyrs for the faith. The names of these martyrs are mostly lost to history because of the confusion and disarray of the time.

Saints

- **St. John Vianney** – John Vianney was a humble man who began studying for the priesthood before the Napoleonic wars began. During the Napoleonic wars, he was drafted into the military but refused to fight. As soon as the war was over he returned to the seminary, and in 1815 became a priest despite his trouble mastering Latin (which was required at the time). After becoming a priest he was sent to a small parish in France. He immediately became popular and spent hours hearing confessions. He was said to have had the gift of knowing people’s sins even before they confessed them. He died one day while listening to a confession. His feast day is August 4th. *St. John lived his missionary call by sharing the good news of Christ through the Sacrament of Confession. This is truly a missionary activity because God desires that His mercy be known and felt by all.*
- **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** was born in the United States to a wealthy Protestant family. She married young and bore five children. When her husband died she was comforted by Catholic friends who inspired her to convert to Catholicism. Because of her conversion, she was rejected by her family but she did not get discouraged. Instead she decided to make her own living by teaching. Her commitment to the poor inspired her to open a school that would be free to those who could not afford it. Eventually she founded an order, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, which is now famous for educating and caring for the poor. Her feast day is January 4th. *St. Elizabeth lived her missionary call by opening numerous schools which taught not only secular subjects but also religion. Many children learned about Christ through the schools she founded.*

Lesson Ten *œ* **1850 – Present: Modern Era**

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher's Notes |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The modern era, like many other times, is characterized by great change in the world and in the Church. At the dawn of the modern era the countries we know today were still forming, and the map changed dramatically with the two World Wars. The Church also experience challenges, blessings and growth. The two Ecumenical Councils were especially important moments in the life of the Church. <p>Important Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1854, Pope Pius IX declared the teaching of the Immaculate Conception to be dogma. The Immaculate Conception celebrates the fact that Mary was free from the stain of sin from the moment of her conception by virtue of the graces of redemption gained for humanity by Christ on the Cross. This teaching has been believed since the very early Church. Pope Pius IX declared it to be dogma in 1854 because people were beginning to question the truth of the teaching. • Several years later in a small town in France a young woman named Bernadette Soubirous began seeing visions of Our Lady. Mary identified herself as the “Immaculate Conception.” Miraculously, from the dry ground a spring began to flow. This spring continues to flow and its water has cured many. Lourdes remains a popular place of pilgrimage to this day. Bernadette was canonized a Saint on December 8, 1933 by Pope Pius XI. Her feast day is celebrated on April 16th. • In the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, a new heresy arose that caused many problems for the Catholic Church. The heresy was called Modernism. Modernism rejects the necessity of religion and reduces faith to a mere feeling. Modernism eradicates Revelation, Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, miracles and even the very divinity of Christ from its belief system. Modernism was condemned by many popes, but Pope Pius X was the most vocal. • In December of 1869, Pope Pius IX opened the First Vatican Council. The purpose of this council was to reconfirm the Faith because it was under heavy attack. The First Vatican Council produced two documents, the first dealt with the faith and the second proclaimed the infallibility of the pope. The council | |

came to an abrupt halt when Italian troops invaded Rome signaling the problems that would lead to **World War I**.

- By the mid-nineteenth century the Industrial Revolution was well on its way. The Industrial Revolution changed the lives of people everywhere as it saw the waning of small family businesses and the growth of big business. As the Industrial Revolution progressed, the Church began to see problems with the way workers were being treated. In the late nineteenth century, the Church began a campaign to advocate for the rights of workers, stating that workers should have reasonable and just working hours, days of rest, and the right to unionize. The rise of awareness of people's individual rights prompted the Church to begin formulating statements on its **Catholic Social Teaching**.
- There are two basic principles that are at the center of the Church's social doctrine; the **dignity of the human person** and **care for the common good**. Because each person is created in the image of God, each person has inherent rights given by God. The social doctrine of the Church outlines these rights and advocates for these for all people.
- Pope St. Pius X was a remarkable man who brought great reform to the Catholic Church. In a time when modernism was rampant, he spoke out strongly against it. He is especially known for his love of the Eucharist. He encouraged more frequent reception of the Eucharist and lowered the age of reception of First Holy Communion to seven years of age.
- In 1914, World War I broke out in Europe. Amidst this time of war the Church unceasingly called for peace. **Pope Benedict XV** maintained a position of neutrality while pushing for peace efforts. He led the Church in helping care for the physical and spiritual needs of those hurt by the war.
- In 1917, Our Lady appeared to three young children in the fields of Fatima, Portugal. She encouraged the children to pray the rosary and asked them to pray for Russia. Our Lady of Fatima predicted a miracle of the sun spinning in the sky. Sure enough, hundreds looked on as the sun danced in the sky. To this day, no scientific evidence can be found for this occurrence.
- During the years between World War I and **World War II**, several governments began severely persecuting the Church. As Russia formed into the communist Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) they began wide scale persecutions of Catholics and religion in general. In Mexico, major persecutions of Catholics began with the destruction of churches.

- In 1929, seeing the need to establish legal protection for the Vatican **Pope Pius XI** signed the **Lateran Treaty** with Mussolini which recognized Mussolini as the leader of the Italian government and made the Vatican its own nation. In the years to come this would prove extremely helpful to the Church and the world.
- Before long the world was back at war. In 1939, World War II began. Again, the leadership of the Church, under Pope Pius XII, declared neutrality believing that this would help to assure peace.
- Back in 1933, in an attempt to solidify his political regime, Hitler signed a concordat with the Vatican. The concordat granted the Church many rights. However, the concordat was violated as soon as the ink was dry on the page. Hitler immediately began persecuting the Church and Jews.
- Hitler's widespread persecution of the Jews is known as the Holocaust. During the war it is said that Pope Pius XII helped to rescue over 400 thousand Jews from the Holocaust. Many have criticized him for not being more outspoken against Nazism; however, he believed that he could do more good by acting justly than by alienating Germany through an outright condemnation.
- When World War II ended in 1945, Europe was in shambles. Germany was defeated, but the USSR was a growing problem. Over the course of the next 50 years the Church would speak out against the atrocities that were occurring in the USSR.
- In 1950, the Pope declared the **Assumption** of Mary the Mother of God to be a dogma of the Church. The dogma of the Assumption was declared at this time in history because before this time it was a generally accepted tenet of belief. When its truth came into question the Church studied and prayed about the issue and officially declared it a dogma so that people could continue to believe with certainty.
- In 1962, the now **Blessed Pope John XXIII** called the 21st Ecumenical Council, known as the **Second Vatican Council**.
 - ~ During Vatican II, which lasted for three years, all the bishops in the world gathered together at the Vatican to discuss matters that were vital to the Church. They did not seek to change the Church, but rather to clarify what the Church believes.
 - ~ The Council produced 16 documents, each discussing a different issue

in the life of the Church. A few of the things discussed were: the role of bishops and priests in the Church, the role of the laity, the renewal of religious orders, the use of modern technology, the Sacred Scriptures, the liturgical life of the Church, ecumenism, and the role of the Church in the world.

~ There were many important things that were discussed at the Second Vatican Council. One important emphasis at the council was helping the laity to become more actively involved in their faith and helping them to understand their own call to holiness. A second influential discussion revolved around maintaining the important theology of the liturgy (the Mass) while encouraging the average Catholic to be actively involved. A third important topic at the council was **ecumenism**. In the years leading up to the council many Christian communities had begun discussing steps to greater Christian unity. At the council the bishops decided to join in the effort of ecumenism which encourages Christian unity. A fourth important decision was to return to the works of the early Church fathers after the Gospels were written. Some of these Church fathers are St. Augustine, St. Ignatius of Antioch, and Origen. A fifth important discussion focused upon being open to the modern world without losing the integrity of Church teaching.

~ Many people believe that Vatican II made up new doctrine and changed Catholicism. However, a correct understanding of the Second Vatican Council reveals that the Church Fathers at Vatican II simply and clearly presented what the Church has believed since Pentecost. Vatican II told the entire Church to rediscover the early Fathers of the Church and their teaching.

• In 1968, **Pope Paul VI** promulgated *Humanae Vitae (Of Human Life)*. This document addressed the much disputed issue of birth control. The Church maintained Her constant position that artificial birth control is a serious moral wrong. However, the Church encouraged the prayerful and thoughtful use of Natural Family Planning.

• In 1978, **Pope John Paul II** was elected after the very brief papacy of 33 days of **Pope John Paul I**.

~ Pope John Paul II was the first Polish pope in the history of the Church and the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

~ He was born into a poor family and had lost all of his family by his early twenties. He studied for the priesthood and was ordained during

World War II.

- ~ Pope John Paul II was one of the most well traveled popes in all of history and made multiple trips to the United States.
 - ~ In 1985, Pope John Paul II called together youths from every nation to participate in a bi-annual World Youth Day. He continued these gatherings, in a new location each time, until his death.
 - ~ Pope John Paul II penned a number of influential encyclicals that influence the Church to this day. A few of his encyclicals are: *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life), *Ut Unum Sint* (The Splendor of Truth), *Fides et Ratio* (Faith and Reason), *Mulieris Dignitatem* (On the Vocation and Dignity of Women), and *Redemptor Hominis* (The Redeemer of Man).
 - ~ He died on April 2, 2005 after suffering for many years with Parkinson's disease. His funeral was watched by millions around the globe.
- In 1992, the world was blessed with a great gift, the Universal **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. By 1994, it was translated into English. Since the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* several documents explaining the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* have come out, such as, the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*.
 - After the death of John Paul II the Cardinals convened a **conclave** and elected Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger as the next pope. He took the name **Benedict XVI** in honor of Pope Benedict XV who helped bring peace to Europe during World War I.
 - During his time as Pope, he has written three encyclicals, *Deus Caritas Est* (*God is Love*), *Spe Salvi* (*Saved in Hope*), and *Caritas In Veritate* (*Charity in Truth*). He has led two international World Youth Days, one in his native Germany and one in Australia.
- Saints**
- **Blessed Miguel Pro** – One very holy man who was martyred under the hostile regime in Mexico was Miguel Pro. Miguel ministered to the Catholics in Mexico at a time when it was criminal to do so. Eventually, he was falsely accused of a bombing and turned over to a firing squad without a trial. Miguel embraced his impending death and just before he was shot shouted “Vivo Christo Rey” –

“Long Live Christ the King.” *Bl. Miguel lived his missionary call by his willingness to go to Mexico and minister to Catholic and non-Catholics at a time when death was the punishment for this missionary act. His martyrdom showed many the truth of the Catholic faith and inspired many to conversion.*

- **St. Maximilian Kolbe** – It is often thought that only Jews were killed in the horrific Holocaust. However, there were many Catholic priests who stood up against Nazism that found themselves in concentration camp. One such man was St. Maximilian Kolbe. One day while in the concentration camps a prisoner escaped. According to policy the Nazi soldiers lined up a group of prisoners and counted out ten who were to be killed as punishment for an escaped prisoner. Among these was a young married man. St. Maximilian knew that this man had children to support so he volunteered to take the man’s place. St. Maximilian died at Auschwitz after three weeks of starvation. His feast day is August 14th. *St. Maximilian lived his missionary call by ministering to Catholic and Jews in the Nazi prison camp. St. Maximilian showed Christ’s love to all around him even as he lay starving to death.*

Lesson Eleven ∞ 1500 – Present: The Church in the United States

| Textbook Alignment | Content | Teacher's Notes |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church in the United States began in the late fifteenth century when Spanish Catholic explorers set foot in modern day Florida. Over the course of five centuries the Church has gone from a discriminated minority to a sizable group with a great deal of influence. Important Events • Although the founding of the United States was primarily done by Protestants fleeing persecution in Europe, this country does have a very early Catholic presence. • One of the first instances of a Catholic presence in the United States occurred in 1513 when Spanish explorers came to modern day Florida bringing along their Catholic priests. • In 1611, French priests, both Jesuits and Franciscan were working in Indiana with the Miami Indians. • Over one-hundred years later, in 1634, 128 English colonists settled in Maryland. The idea to form a colony in Maryland came from Englishman George Calvert who was a Catholic convert. • Just as the Protestants were persecuted for not being Catholic in many European countries, so too were the Catholics persecuted for not being Protestant in the new territories that would become the United States. However, in 1649, Maryland became the first colony to pass an Act of Toleration of Catholics. • When colonist arrived in North America they found the land was already inhabited by Native Americans. Missionaries from many Catholic European countries desired to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the Native Americans. Some of the earliest missionaries ventured into what is now eastern Canada and New York; they are known as the North American Martyrs. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues labored ceaselessly to convert the Native | |

Americans to Christianity and eventually were martyred for the faith.

- As time went on more religious orders began to come to the United States to serve. One of the first women's religious orders to come to the new land was the Ursulines.
- In 1776, Charles Carroll was the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence.
- In 1790, the United States was given its first bishop and its first diocese, the Diocese of Baltimore. The first bishop was **Bishop John Carroll** who was born in Maryland and served as its bishop for 25 years until his death in 1815.
- In 1928, despite strong anti-Catholic sentiments of many Americans, Alfred E. Smith became the first Catholic to run for United States president. Although he lost he set the stage for future U.S. Catholic politicians.
- The Catholic Church in Indiana:
 - ~ In 1829, Father Stephen Theodore Badin, the first Catholic priest to be ordained in the United States, began working as a missionary at the Pottawatomie Indian Mission in Indiana, as well as surrounding states. Fr. Badin's remains were moved to the University of Notre Dame in 1906 to be placed under the newly built log chapel.
 - ~ Several years later in 1831, one acre of land was purchased in Fort Wayne for the Catholic Church and in 1839, St. Augustine; the first permanent church on the site was constructed.
 - ~ By 1845, the first Catholic School in the Fort Wayne area was under construction. It was named the St. Augustine Academy for Girls. At the request of **Father Julian Benoit, Mother Theodore Guérin** and several other Sisters of Providence came to staff the school. Three years later the Cathedral Boys' School was created. The boys' school was staffed by the Brothers of the Holy Cross.
 - ~ In January of 1857, the Diocese of Fort Wayne was created by Pope Pius IX. The first bishop was **Bishop John Henry Luers**.
 - ~ In December of 1860, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was completed and dedicated.
 - ~ In the mid-1900's, the Diocese of Fort Wayne underwent significant change. First, in 1944, the southern half of the Diocese was reassigned to the newly created Diocese of Lafayette. Then in 1957, the

northwestern part of the Diocese was reassigned to the Diocese of Gary. Finally, in 1960, the Diocese was renamed the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Saints

- **Blessed Junipero Serra** – While some great men and women were evangelizing on the eastern coast Bl. Junipero Serra and the Spanish missionaries were laboring on the west coast. Junipero was born in Spain and at a young age made the decision to join the Franciscans. The Franciscans sent Bl. Junipero to modern day Mexico to be a missionary. Later he received orders to go north to modern day California. Bl. Junipero founded numerous missions and evangelized many. He is revered even today in California and worldwide. *Bl. Junipero lived his missionary call by venturing into unknown territory and sharing the Gospel message with Native Americans. Many places in the Western United States can trace the beginning of their Catholicism to a mission he founded.*
- **Saint Mother Theodore Guerin** – In 1880, Saint Mother Theodore Guerin came from France with her sisters, the Sisters of Providence, to establish a mission in what is now Terre Haute, Indiana. The Sisters of Providence also established schools. Mother Theodore came to Fort Wayne and established the first Catholic School in the area. She established the first of three schools run by the Sisters of Providence, two of which still remain, Saint John the Baptist and Saint Jude. Saint Mother Theodore Guerin is the first canonized saint of Indiana. Her feast is celebrated in the Church on October 3rd. *St. Mother Theodore lived her missionary call by founding schools which taught the truths of the Catholic faith to those who knew little about it.*
- **St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha** – Throughout this time, American Catholicism continued to grow and in 1946 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was the first American citizen to be declared a saint. In 1980, Kateri Tekakwitha was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II. Kateri was the first Native American to be declared Blessed. *St. Frances and Bl. Kateri lived their missionary call by publically living their Catholic faith so that all could see.*

Conclusion

Over the course of over 2000 years, the Church has enjoyed periods of strength and periods of weakness. Through it all the Saints of the Church have remained faithful to Christ's mission to spread the Good News of Christ to all corners of the earth. We can be certain that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide His Church until the end of time. The Church is a historical reality with eternal significance. One day we will all be able to enjoy the fullness of the **Kingdom of God**, begun in the Church, together with the whole **Communion of Saints** in Heaven!