

## Twelfth Grade Religion Curriculum

### Part I. Church History

- I. Jesus' institution of the Church
- Jesus' instituted the Church (c. A.D. 29) Mt. 16:13-19
  - Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as the One who will guide the Church to the fullness of truth (c. A.D. 30) Jn. 16:12-13
- II. The Church of the Apostles
- The Great Commission: teach and baptize Mt. 28:16-20
  - Pentecost (c. A.D. 30) (CCC 1076) Acts 2
  - Conversion of Paul (c. A.D. 40)
  - Missionary journeys of St. Paul (A.D. 46-60)
  - Council of Jerusalem (c. A.D. 50)
  - Fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the Temple (A.D. 70)
  - Formation of written Gospels (Latter half of century)
  - Persecution and expansion
    - Persecution by some Jewish leaders
      - Martyrdom of St. Stephen (1<sup>st</sup> century)
      - Martyrdom of St. James the Less (1<sup>st</sup> century)
    - Persecution by Roman leaders
      - Nero (A.D. 64)
      - Martyrdom of Sts. Peter and Paul
      - Trajan enacts laws against Christians (2<sup>nd</sup> century)
      - Decius and Valerian (A.D. 250-260) Systematic persecution
      - Persecutions by Diocletian (A.D. 303-311)
    - Christian population of the Roman Empire reaches 5 million (A.D. 300)
- III. The Fathers of the Church (Patristic Period) (A.D. 50-600)
- St. Clement of Rome (first century)
  - St. Ignatius of Antioch (c. A.D. 110) 2<sup>nd</sup> Bishop of Antioch sent letters to the faithful on his way to martyrdom
  - St. Polycarp of Smyrna (A.D. 69-155) heroic martyrdom
  - Apologists:
    - St. Justin Martyr (A.D. 100-165) gave early account of the form of the Mass
    - Origen (A.D. 184-254) led famous catechetical school in Alexandria (some ideas later declared false)
  - Key developments
    - Leadership structure takes form: bishops, priests, deacons
    - Formulation of creeds (short summaries of faith used to prepare candidates and Christian)
    - Formulation of the canon of Scripture (4<sup>th</sup> century)

### The Church under imperial protection

- Constantine and the Edict of Milan (A.D.313)
- Constantine became sole emperor (A.D. 324)
- Christianity named the state religion (A.D. 381)

### Rise of heresies

- Donatist conflict: personal sin and weakness of priests  
removes their commission
- Arian heresy: Jesus Christ was not God
- Pelagian heresy: salvation was dependent on human effort,  
not the grace of God
- Nestorianism: denied that Mary was the Mother of God
- Monophysitism*: Jesus possess only one divine nature

### Early ecumenical councils

- Council of Nicea (A.D. 325)
  - Condemned Arianism
  - Defined that Jesus is of the same substance as the Father (Jesus is true God)
  - Produced Nicene Creed
- Council of Constantinople (A.D. 381)
  - Reaffirmed that the Son is “one in being “ with the Father
  - Defined the divinity of the Holy Spirit
  - Confirmed and extended the Nicene Creed
- Council of Ephesus (A.D. 431)
  - Condemned Nestorianism
  - Defined that Mary is truly the Mother of God
- Council of Chalcedon (A.D. 451)
  - Affirmed that Jesus is one person (a divine person) with two natures (*hypostatic union*)

### The great Western fathers:

- St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan and Doctor of the Church (A.D. 340-397); mentor of St. Augustine
- St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Doctor of the Church (A.D. 354-430); great convert, philosopher, theologian
- St. Jerome, Doctor of the Church (A.D. 347-419); great Scripture scholar; said “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.”
- St. Gregory the Great; Pope (from A.D. 590-604), Doctor of the Church

### The great Eastern fathers

- St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (A.D. 295-373); great defender of the divinity of Christ
- St. Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop (d. A.D. 395); defender of the Nicene Creed

St. Basil the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (A.D. 329-379); defender of the Nicene Creed who established religious community in the east

St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (d. A.D. 391); defender of the Nicene Creed

St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (A.D. 354-407); great preacher and theologian

#### Some saints and martyrs of the early Church

St. Cecilia (c. A.D. 117)

St. Lawrence (c. A.D. 258)

St. Sebastian (c. A.D. 288)

Sts. Cosmas and Damian (d. A.D. 303)

St. George (c. A.D. 304)

St. Lucy (A.D. 283-304)

St. Blasé (c. A.D. 316)

St. Helena (A.D. 250-330)

St. Nicholas (4<sup>th</sup> century)

St. Monica (A.D. 322-387)

St. Martin of Tours (A.D. 316-397)

St. Leo the Great, Pope (A.D. 400-461)

#### The Age of Monasticism

St. Antony the Hermit (A.D. 251-356)

St. Basil the Great (A.D. 329-379); wrote the first great “rule,” or “way of life,” for Eastern monks

St. Martin of Tours (A.D. 316-397); called Father of Western Monasticism

St. Benedict (A.D. 480-547); “the Rule of work and pray”

Effects of Benedictine monasteries

Messengers of faith (cross)

Pioneers and preservers of Western culture (book)

Promoters of civilization and new settlements (plow)

Invasion of barbarians

Missionary activity

Pope St. Leo the Great (A.D. 400-461)

St. Patrick (A.D. 390-461) - Ireland

#### IV. The Middle Ages to the Protestant Reformation – (A.D. 600-1517)

##### Early middle ages:

Pope St. Gregory the Great (Pope from A.D. 59 –604)

Islamic threats against Europe (late 7<sup>th</sup> – early 8<sup>th</sup> century)

Constantinople (A.D. 674-78)

Tours (A.D. 732)

Charlemagne (d. 814); political and religious unification of Europe

Sts. Cyril (d. 869) and Methodious (d. 885); “Apostles to the Slavs”

## Renewal of monastic life

Cluny (founded in A.D. 910); first monastic order

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153); leader of spiritual renewal;  
founded Cistercian order

The Great Schism (A.D. 1054); mutual excommunications not lifted  
until 1965

## The Crusades (12<sup>th</sup> Century)

### Causes

Reclaiming the Holy Land from Moslem control

Defending Christian faith

Protecting Christian pilgrims

## The Investiture Controversy (11<sup>th</sup> century)

Elimination of simony and clerical marriage

Emphasis on interior conversion

Naming of marriage as a sacrament

## Mendicant Orders

St. Francis (1181?-1226)

St. Dominic (1170-1221)

## Age of Scholasticism

St. Albert the Great, Doctor of the Church; teacher and mentor of St.  
Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274); author of the *Summa Theologica*;  
one of the greatest philosophers and theologians in the history of the  
Church

John Duns Scotus (1266-1308); great Franciscan theologian

Dante Alighieri (1265-1321); *The Divine Comedy*

## Growth of Devotions

The Rosary

Stations of the Cross

## The Inquisition (13<sup>th</sup> Century)

### Internal Crisis

Avignon Papacy (1305-1376)

The “Great Schism” of Popes (1378-1417)

## The influence of the “Black Death” on the Church

## The Renaissance (15<sup>th</sup> and beginning of 16<sup>th</sup> century)

## Some saints of the medieval period (A.D. 601-1500)

St. Boniface (680-754); Apostle to Germany

St. Stanislaus; Bishop of Krakow (1030-1079)

St. Anthony of Padua (1195-1231); great Franciscan preacher and  
teacher (1195-1231)

St. Clare of Assisi (1194-1253); friend of St. Francis; foundress of  
the “Poor Clares”

St. Louis IX (1214-1270); holy king of France

St. Gertrude the Great ((1256 – 1302); great mystic

St. Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373); mystical contemplation of Christ's passion and death  
 St. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church (1347-1380); great mystic  
 St. Joan of Arc (1412-1431); heroic leader of French army

- V. The Protestant Reformation and Counter-Reformation (A.D. 1300-1650)
- Martin Luther (1480-1546)
    - 95 Theses (1517)
    - Sola fidei (faith alone)
    - Sola scriptura (Scripture alone)
    - Indulgences
  - Jean Calvin
    - Predestination
  - Henry VIII (d. 1547)
    - Founding of the Church of England
  - St. Thomas More (1478-1535); "I am the king's good servant, but God's first."
  - St. John Fisher, Bishop (d. 1535); "Faithful unto death"
  - Council of Trent (1543-1563)
    - Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition complimentary
    - Justification
    - Sacraments
      - Seven; instituted by Jesus
    - The *Roman Catechism* (Catechism of Trent)
      - (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the current official catechism, is only the second universal catechism in history of the Church)
    - Establishment of seminaries
  - Saints of the Reformation Period (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries)
    - St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556); founder of the Jesuits; defender of the Church and the Papacy
    - St. Juan Diego (1474-1548); seer of Our Lady of Guadalupe
    - St. Charles Borromeo (1538-1584); Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, Italy enacted reforms of the Council of Trent
    - St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622); Doctor of the Church; wrote *Introduction to the Devout Life*
    - St. Philip Neri (1515-1595); began "The Oratorians" to help young men lead holy lives
    - St. Theresa of Avila (1515-1582); Carmelite nun; reformer and mystic
    - St. John of the Cross (1542-1591); Carmelite priest and mystic
    - St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660); "Apostle" of organized Charity

- VI. The Catholic Church in the Modern World
- The Church and the Enlightenment (17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries)
    - Definition of limitations of reason and science
  - New Missionary Efforts
    - Asia
    - Africa
    - North and South America
  - Nineteenth Century and Political Liberalism
    - Pope Pius IX (Roman Pontiff 1846-78)
      - Dogma of the Immaculate Conception defined (1854)
      - Called the First Vatican Council (1869-70)
        - Defined infallibility of Church teachings in matters of faith and morals
    - Pope Leo XIII (Roman Pontiff 1878-1903)
      - Wrote social encyclical *Rerum Novarum*
      - Stimulated Scripture study with encyclical *Providentissimus Deus*
      - Wrote on relationship between faith and science
      - Foundation of women religious orders: Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Loretto, etc.
      - Revitalization of religious orders: Jesuits doubled membership
      - Catholics in U.S. grew from 3% of population to the largest single Christian body
  - Some 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century saints
    - Blessed Junipero Serra (1713-1784); helped evangelize North America
    - St. John Bosco (1815-1888); tremendous love of youth
    - St. Dominic Savio (1842-1857); patron of youth; taught and mentored by St. John Bosco
    - St. Bernadette of Lourdes (1844-1879); in 1858, Our Lady revealed herself to Bernadette as “The Immaculate Conception”
    - St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower (1873-1897); Follower of “the little way of confidence (in God) and love”
- VII. The Catholic Church in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- St. Pius X (1903-1914)
    - Only 20<sup>th</sup> century pope to be canonized (1948)
    - Concern for strengthening Catholic worship and protecting the Church against modern errors
    - Established Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) and moved the age for receiving sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist to age of reason (7 years).
    - Promulgated the Code of Canon Law in 1917
    - Condemned modernist teaching

## The Church during two World Wars

Benedict XV (1914-1922)

Mary's apparitions at Fatima (1917)

Bolshevik Revolution (1917)

Pius XI (1922-1939)

Catholic persecutions in Spain, Russia and Mexico

Establishment of Feast of Christ the King (1925) to remind the world of Christ's kingship over nations.

Rise of Mussolini (1922) and Hitler (1933)

Encyclicals *On the Christian Education of Youth* and *On Christian Marriage* and *Divini Redemptoris* issued on Feast of St. Joseph the Worker (1937)

Issued encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* (1937) condemning nazism and fascism.

Promoted worldwide missionary activity; first pope to consecrate bishops from among native peoples

Encyclical *Quadragesimo anno* (1931)

Pius XII (1939-1958) "Pope of Peace" and "Pope of Mary"

Policy of neutrality toward nations

Provided relief and refuge for Jews and other persecuted peoples

Issued *Mystici Corporis Christi*, encyclical on the mystical body of Christ

Condemned Communist Party (1949)

Defined dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1950)

## Effects of the spread of Communism on the Church

Serious reduction in number of Catholics worldwide

Persecution, imprisonment and execution of priests

Rev. Walter Ciszek, S.J.

Blessed John XXIII (1958-1963)

Encyclicals *Pacem in Terris* and *Mater et Magistra*

Encouraged the Ecumenical movement

Initiated the Second Vatican Council to promote unity

Paul VI (1963-1978)

Saw to the completion of the Second Vatican Council;

Traveled extensively, including a trip to address the U.N.

Encyclicals *Ecclesiam Suam* (1964), on the Church, and

*Populorum Progressio* (1967), on the development of peoples

Encyclical *Humanae vitae* (1968), requiring Catholics to regulate births by natural means

Increased the number of cardinals and made the College of Cardinals more international

Named the first women religious to work in the Roman Curia

Restored the office of deacon.

## Effects of Second Vatican Council

### Documents of Vatican Council

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen gentium*)

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum consilium*);

Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei verbum*)

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et spes*)

Declaration on Religious Liberty (*Dignitatis humanae*).

### Achievements of the Second Vatican Council

Renewal of Church life

Increased collegiality of bishops

Increased role of the laity

Reform of religious orders;

Reform of the Sacred liturgy

Ecumenism

Increased importance of Catholic Social Teaching

Growth of the Pentecostal/Catholic Charismatic Movement.

### Problems/challenges since the Second Vatican Council

Exodus of priests and religious from priesthood/religious life

Theological challenges to the authenticity of the teachings of the Pope and the bishops by scholars;

Crisis in religious education (method overshadowed doctrine)

Undermining of traditional Catholic moral doctrine;

Alliance by some Catholics with Marxist movements in efforts to serve the poor.

### John Paul I (1978-1978)

One-month long pontificate; known for his kind manner

### John Paul II (1978-2005)

*Redemptor hominis* focuses on Jesus as ultimate solution to world problems

Defender of human rights based on the dignity of the human person (*Dives in Misericordia* and *Laborem exercens*)

Called the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops (1985)

*Catechism of Catholic Church* written and promulgated

*Evangelium vitae*, *Familiaris consortio*, Apostolic exhortations, and addresses, combined with the study of "Theology of the Body," (Wednesday audiences) have given the Church a new way to understand human sexuality and the "culture of life"

Increased relations with the Jewish people

Increased devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and the Marian way (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae* (2002) and *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (2003).

Pope Benedict XVI (2005-present)

Some 20<sup>th</sup> century Blesseds and Saints

St. Maria Goretti (1890-1902); heroic purity

Blessed Francisco Marto (1908-1919) and Blessed Jacinta Marto (1910-1920); seers of Our Lady of Fatima

St. Faustina (1905-1938); “Apostle of Mercy”

St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941); Saint of Auschwitz

St. Theresa Benedicta (Edith Stein) (1891-1942); convert, philosopher, victim of the Holocaust

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968); bore the wounds of Christ (the stigmata)

St. Josemaria Escriva (1902-1975) founder of Opus Dei

Blessed Theresa of Calcutta (1910-1997); founded the Missionaries of Charity to serve the poorest of the poor; won Nobel Peace Prize

St. Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-1962); heroic motherhood

## VIII. The Church in North America

The Spanish missions

Florida

California and the Southwest

The French missions

The North American Martyrs

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (1656-1680)

Catholics in the English colonies

Maryland

The Carroll family

Foundation of the Catholic School System in the U. S.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821)

Catholic immigration (19<sup>th</sup> century)

American Protestant reaction

St. Francis Xavier Cabrini

Servants of God (Venerables, Blesseds, and Saints)

Blessed Kateri Tekawitha ((1656-1680); consecrated virgin; dedicated to prayer, penance, and care for the aged and sick; devoted to the Holy Eucharist and Mystery of the Cross.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1744-1821); founded the American Sisters of Charity; laid the foundation for the American Catholic School System.

Servant of God Pierre Toussaint (1766-1853); known for his charity; labored to dispel religious and racial prejudice in N.Y.; raised funds to build a Catholic orphanage.

St. John Neumann (1811-1860); encouraged 40 Hours Devotions;  
 established parishes and schools; became Bishop of Philadelphia  
 St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955); founded Sisters of the Blessed  
 Sacrament; known for her work among American Indians and Black  
 Americans; worked tirelessly for civil rights; founded schools and  
 universities

Growth of the Church in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in the United States

Discrimination against Catholics decreases

First Catholic president – John F. Kennedy (1960-63)

The American Catholic response to the Second Vatican Council

The problem of dissent after *Humanae vitae*

The New Evangelization – World Youth Day – 1993

The Jubilee Year (2000)

Ordinaries of the Diocese of Scranton

Most Reverend William O’Hara (1868-1899)

Most Reverend Michael J. Hoban (1899-1926)

Most Reverend Thomas C. O’Reilly (1928-1938)

Most Reverend William J. Hafey (1938-1954)

Most Reverend Jerome D. Hannan (1954-1965)

Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick (1966-1983)

Most Reverend John J. O’Connor (1983-1984)

*(Later John Cardinal O’Connor)*

Most Reverend James C. Timlin (1984-2003)

Most Reverend Joseph F. Martino (2003-Present)

### Resources for Teachers

*The Compact History of the Catholic Church*, Alan Schreck, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1995.

*History of the Church*, Hubert Jedin, ed., The Crossroad Publishing Co., 1981.

*Catholic Church History from A to Z: An Inspirational Dictionary*, Alan Schreck, Servant Publications, 2002.

*He Leadeth Me*, Walter J. Ciszek, S.J. with Daniel Flaherty, S.J., Ignatius Press, 1995.

*With God in Russia*, Walter J. Ciszek, S.J. with Daniel Flaherty, S.J., Ignatius Press, 1996.