




CHAPTER THREE

*The Church of the
Middle Ages (AD 600-1300)*



- The **Seventh** through the **Fourteenth** Centuries
600 AD - 1300AD
- Christendom in the West
- Cultural Christianity
- Europe established as Christian but an East-West Schism divides the Church
- The challenge of Islam
- Crusades and Inquisition
- Religious Orders



7th Century

- This century and the next saw the **proliferation of Benedictine missionaries**, whose actions help expand Christianity to the fringes of Europe.
- **St Augustine**, sent by **Pope St Gregory the Great**, a Benedictine monk living in Rome in 595, was sent to England to convert the pagan rulers of the **Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms**. He was named the **first Bishop of Canterbury**
 - **St Augustine** arrived at the coast of Kent with 40 other religious missionaries for this purpose
 - **Canterbury** became the **principal see of the England** and remains that way today for the **Church of England**.



7th Century



- Benedictine monk Willibrord, became known as the Apostle to the Netherlands.



- In the Eight Century (723-739), English Benedictine Monk Winfrid, (St Boniface) evangelized Germany and became known as the Apostle to Germany.

- Hundreds of Benedictine Monks helped complete the initial Christianization of Europe, as the Feudal Period was about to begin
- In the 7th & 8th Centuries most monasteries were Benedictine, but as we will see, in the 9th century learning and monasticism declined severely.

7th Century

- The **Third Council of Constantinople in 680** summoned by Emperor Constantine IV condemned the **monothelites**, who argued Christ had only **one *thelēma*** (one will), finding also that **Pope Honorius I was a monothelite**. The Council held that Christ had **two wills** along with His two natures
 - The prior Second Council of Constantinople of 553, had previously confirmed the **Chaldean Council condemnation of Nestorianism**, while acknowledging that Jesus did in fact have **two natures**.
- * **The condemnation of Pope Honorius I**, was based on the *Pope's reply letter to the Patriarch of Constantinople*, which unfortunately seemed vague on the issue of **monothelism**.

7th Century

- Pope Honorius I - (Pope 625-638) was also active at spreading Christianity among the Anglo-Saxons, but he is more remembered for being condemned (*wrongfully*) as a Heretic.
- Sergius, Patriarch of Constantinople, related that in addressing a Monophysite sect, the Emperor of Armenia had used the term 'one operation' regarding Jesus' natures. — The intent of the Emperor was to assert the natures operated without confusion. Monothelism believers then embraced the term to mean Jesus only had one will.
- ☑ Pope Honorius I did not refute the *arguably* monothelistic aspect the letter, and so only appeared to be a monothelist.

... but He was **NOT** a heretic

7th Century

- **Sergius**, was concerned with the term “**two expressions**” in that it could be seen that Jesus might in fact have the possibility of **confusion** in His natures, and therefore also in His two wills that **His human will** could be expressed in conflict with His **divine will** as the 2nd Person of the Trinity.
- ☑ **Pope Honorius I**, rather than just confirm proper theology and the faith in his reply, **agreed with Sergius** that the **issue of two operations** when applied to Christ’s natures and His wills, **should be advocated sparingly** as it might create **confusion** and empower the **Nestorian view**.
- ★ However, *having so stated*, the **Council** believed **Honorius** had repudiated the **Chaldean findings**, and called him a **heretic** some **50 years after his death**, when **unable to defend himself**.

8th Century

- **St Boniface** facilitated an alliance between **Pope Stephen II** and **Pepin, the Short**, who was reigning over the **Francia** portion of the Frankish kingdom, containing **Burgundy** and **Provence**.



Charlemagne

- **Stephen II anointed Pepin as King**, and a bond began which would lead to the formation of a Holy Roman Empire when Pepin's son **Charles** was anointed Emperor at **St Peter's basilica** by **Pope Leo III** on December 25, 800 AD.
- ★ **Charles the Great, Charlemagne** ruled only 14 years, but he changed the History of the Church and Europe
- **East** and **West** were now on a collision course.

8th Century

- **Filioque** an unnecessary controversy, that ultimately became the reason or excuse for the **East-West Schism**
- **Charlemagne**, tried to *compel* the Eastern Church to adopt the declaration by the **non-ecumenical Third Council of Toledo from 586** (of two centuries earlier) that the **Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son** - *or as some might say, from the Father through the Son.*
- The difficulty seems not to be Scriptural but related to **creation** of the Third Person. If the Father **generates both** the Son and the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is **sent by both** the Father and the Son, then neither the West nor the East seem to have difficulty with it.

8th Century

- To the **West**, this was **not a controversy** as it had always been believed. To the **East**, this was a **violation of the First Ecumenical Council** in that words were added to the Creed without the participation of the Eastern Bishops
 - Added to the controversy was that a **Lay Western Emperor** was proposing to tell the **Bishops of the East** **what they ought to say** when reciting the **Nicene Creed**.
 - This highlights the **problem** that develops when the **State and Church become intermingled**, especially when the secular leader is strong and the church leader is weak
- ➔ *Intermingling* was not only a **Western** problem, as the **iconoclast controversy** in the **East** demonstrated.

8th Century

- **Lay Investiture** - The right for a **lay person (Emperor)** to **install clergy, including Bishops, without consultation or approval of the Church or Rome.** In the Middle Ages this sometimes occurred.

- Are we seeing this in China, today?



- **NO.** The 2018 Sino-Vatican agreement requires the approval of both Beijing and the Vatican for any appointment of a Bishop.
- **Baptisms en masse** - **Blood** or **Water** - In the 3rd Century we saw - a two year RCIA type program preceding Baptism, but in the **8th Century we see Baptism first** to convert Franks and other pagans, with instruction to follow.

8th Century

- Eastern Emperor Leo III “iconoclast decree” forbade veneration of icons in the East. He simply decided the Bible forbade it as improper worship of images.
 - While Leo III’s view was severely protested, it took a council under a successor, Empress Irene to overturn the ban on proper use of icons in churches and liturgy.
- ◆ The Second Council of Nicaea in 787 - with the full support of Pope Gregory II, approved the veneration of icons
 - ✓ “Dulia” veneration of saints was distinguished from “Latria” which is the worship reserved for God alone
 - ✓ Hyperdulia - a higher level of veneration became reserved to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary alone.

“Images are the books of Lay People, wherein they read of the Life of Christ.” Pope St Gregory the Great



9th Century

- In the West, after Charlemagne died, unity and peace in the Kingdom began to fall apart. Pope Nicholas the Great, was a strong pope but after his reign in 867 weak popes emerged. - The West began to decline
- Church and State fell together and with threats from Islam and Hungarians on the south and Vikings on the North - and given no strong Western leader, Europe slipped into Feudalism.
- Small fiefdoms emerged with local lords controlling their lands exchanging service and labor from peasants, and the help of knights for security. Gone was the glory of Rome.



9th Century

- Literacy, Art and Culture were the victims of this new age.
- One exception was the result of Cyril (born Constantine, 826–869) and Methodius (815–885), two brothers who became Byzantine Christian theologians and missionaries
 - Their evangelization mission to the Slavs expanded the Byzantine influence into modern day Russia and the surrounding areas.
- ★ The brothers first translated the New Testament and the Psalms, and created a Slavic written language for the population, which came to be known as the Cyrillic alphabet, (closely related to Greek) named after its primary author.

10th Century

- Pope John XII is highlighted by the depravity and worldliness with which he conducted his office. He became Pope at age 18 and served only 9 years.



- Octavian died in 964 at age 27, either: from a stroke while in bed with his mistress Stefanetta, a married woman, or thrown out a window after being caught by her outraged Husband. He is said to have turned the Vatican into a whorehouse, oftentimes gallivanting around Rome looking for his next sexual encounter.
- The spoiled son of a concubine of his Feudal Lord father, he is said to have preferred hunting to saying Mass, plotted against his friends, gambled and even drank toasts to the devil.

10th Century

- Six months before his death, a Synod composed of fifty Italian and German bishops was convened in St. Peter's. John XII was formally accused of sacrilege, simony, perjury, murder, adultery, and incest, and summoned to defend himself. John declined and excommunicated all the participants.



- Fortunately, John XII had sought the help of Otto I, of Germany and crowned him Emperor so that he could have the aid of the Franks in fighting the Lombards North of Rome.
- Thereafter, Otto the Great having a military and geographical presence in Northern Italy he could influence Rome itself, and that he did - both in the Church and Empire.

10th Century

- **Otto the Great**, holy Roman Emperor (962-973) was a strong leader. **Seeing weak and corrupt Popes**, he used **Lay Investiture** to not only appoint **learned and holy Bishops**, but **also Popes**.
- The **Author of our Book, Alan Schreck**, sees the **reign of Otto the Great as God's instrument** to restore order to the **Empire**, and perhaps **through Lay Investiture**, also to the **Church**
 - For that premise, **Schreck** cites the appointment of **Silvester II to the chair of Peter**. **Silvester II** reigned from 999-1003, but is remembered for his **scholarly achievements**, his **advances in education**, and his **shrewd political judgment**
 - He was the **first Frenchman** to become pope.





- Between the 10th and 12th centuries, Cluny Abbey became the centre of a European monastic empire whose authority extended over more than 1100 priories and more than 10 000 monks.

- For three centuries, remarkable abbots emerged as mediators and advisers to kings and the Pope, influencing politics and history.
- Among great Popes who were Cluny Benedictines, we find Gregory VII, Urban II and Paschal II

11th Century



King St Stephen
of Hungary

- Baptized at age 10, Stephen as King of Hungary brought the Catholic faith to his Kingdom in the year 1000
- A Catholic Hungary was very significant because the **Danube River** flows through Budapest, and thus **Hungary is gateway into the Austria and Europe**
- Geographically the conversion of Pagans to the Christianity helped secure the area against **Islamic intrusion.**

11th Century

- **Gregory VII** - Born in Tuscany, and having been a beneficiary of **Cluny monastic education**, rose to the office of **Archdeacon of Rome**.
 - On the death of Alexander II, in 1073 - during the funeral procedures, a **cry arose from the clergy and the people saying "Let Hildebrand be Pope!"**
 - Hildebrand fled and hid, in "**San Pietro in Vincoli**" but when found was **elected by acclamation** by the assembled Cardinals - without formal procedures or a vote.
- **He was a great reformer Pope**. He restored the **primacy of the Papacy** as the custodian of the faith, **including the right to depose Emperors**, if necessary.

11th Century

- Gregory VII excommunicated German Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV three times.
- Henry IV eventually countered by appointing Guibert of Ravenna as pope in 1084, while Gregory was still alive. As such Guibert was an antipope under the name of Clement III
- Incredibly Guibert, remained antipope throughout the rest of Gregory VII reign, and the succeeding pontificates of Victor III and Urban II, until his death in 1100.
- Pope Gregory VII was exiled from Rome and lived in Monte Cassino until his death in 1085. Victor III had to rule from the stronghold of Monte Cassino
- Subsequently a Synod excommunicated antipope Clement and condemned the practice of Lay Investiture.

11th Century



- **Urban II**, at the **Council of Clermont** in **1095** in a **speech** that some call **the most influential speech in human history**, urged all **Christians** to join in a **Crusade** to wrestle the Holy Land from Muslim control and to **restore safe passage for Christians** to the holy sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. He changed **Si Deus Vult**, to **“Deus Vult.” (God wills it!)**
- The Crusade was very successful in this mission, as French Crusader **Godfrey de Bouillon** led the troops that liberated Jerusalem
- It was at this time, that **many of the Knights** who had fought in the Crusade, **became organized into one of two Orders**, to protect the Holy Land.



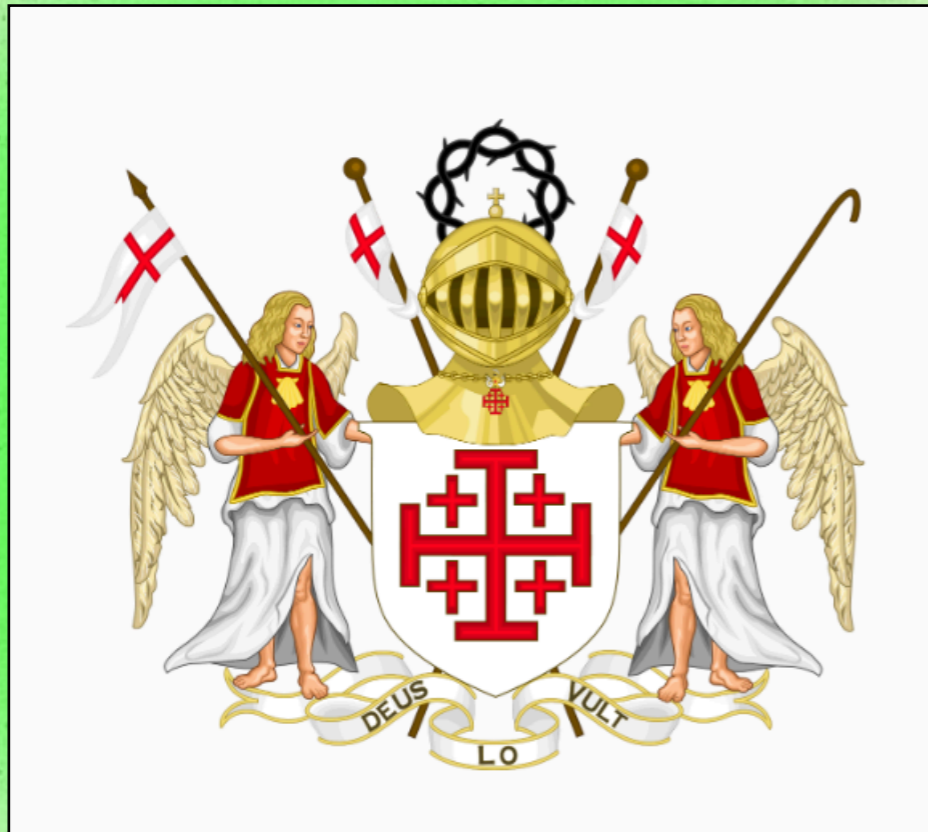
11th Century



- The **Order of the Poor Knights of the Temple of Solomon**, more commonly known as the **Knights Templar** was also founded in Jerusalem in 1119, and quickly began to expand within Europe, after many returned from Israel. Templar Knights were very active during the Crusades, but were eventually *extinguished by persecution* started under the **French King Philip IV** on **Friday the 13th, of October 1307**.

- **Philip IV** betrayed the **Knights** to **acquire their wealth and to cancel his war debt to them**, for their support in a war against England.
— After 7 years, the **Templars** ceased to exist with many, **including the last master Jacques de Molay**, being **burned to death** in 1314.

11th Century



DEUS LO VULT

- The **Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre**, more commonly known as the **Knights of the Holy Sepulchre** founded in Jerusalem, for the protection of travel by Pilgrims, especially between Bethlehem and Jerusalem . It expanded with time with **priories all over Europe** and is active today with many Lieutenancies even in the **United States**.

Our **Bishop Joseph Brennan** is a **Knight of the Holy Sepulchre**

East-West Schism

- The East-West Schism, is also called the **Schism of 1054**
- It describes the **current separation** between the Eastern Church and the Western Church
- The **Patriarch of Constantinople** was **Michael Cerularius**, while the **Bishop of Rome** was **Pope Leo IX**
- Each leader **excommunicated** the other

Peter and **Andrew**, though brothers were now **separated**

Constantinople grew in prestige, after the **seat of the Roman Empire moved East**, and the fall of the West, **made the East not need the West**

Eastern churches **resented** the **filioque**, **clerical celibacy**, **limitation on confirmation to a bishop**, and use of **only unleavened bread** for Eucharist

East-West Schism

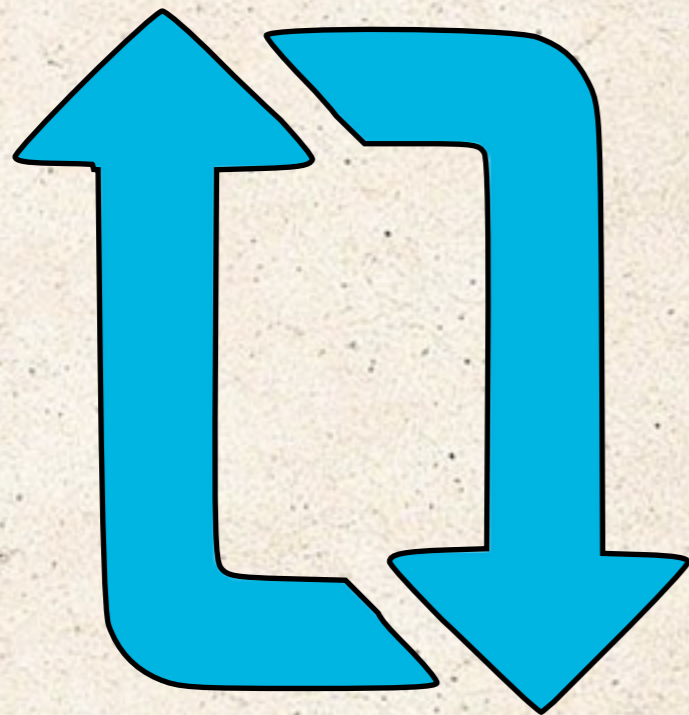
- The **East** took the term **Orthodox**, while the **West** retained the word **Catholic**.
- There had been **23** rites in the **East** and **one** rite in the **West**. Now **22** of the **23** rites in the **East**, severed their relationship with the **West**, following the leadership of the Patriarch of Constantinople.



- ☑ One Eastern Rite is **proud** that it **never left Rome** and **remained** united to Peter's chair: **The Antiochene Syriac Maronite rite**, located primarily in Lebanon and Syria.
- **Fr Mitch Pacwa SJ** is bi-ritual, (Maronite & Latin) so he can celebrate the **Maronite Mass** and the **Novus Ordo (or Tridentine) Mass**.

East-West Schism

- Slowly over the centuries, Christians in the Orthodox Eastern Churches, along with their clergy returned to Rome, away from their Orthodox brothers dividing each Eastern rite in two: One in communion with Rome; the Other Orthodox.



- The term **Uniate**, is used to describe an Eastern Rite group that has returned to the Catholic Church
- For instance - there is an **Armenian Catholic Rite** and an **Armenian Orthodox Rite** - a **Chaldean Catholic Rite** and a corresponding **Chaldean Orthodox Rite**. *This is the case for all the 22 Eastern Rites.*

East-West Schism



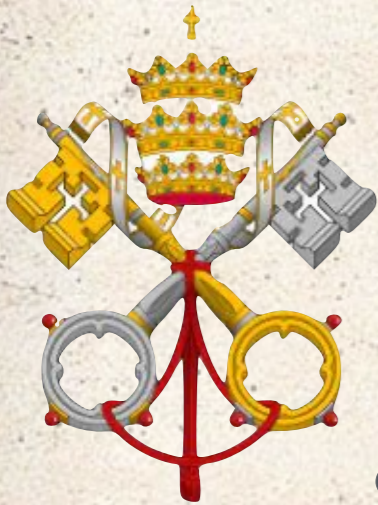
- Many pray for reunification between East and West. On Jan 5 1964, **Pope Paul VI** and **Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras** met on the **Mount of Olives** in Jerusalem.
- After **praying together**, they **lifted the mutual excommunications** from 1054 and **exchanged a kiss of peace**
- Thereafter **Pope Paul VI** traveled to **Constantinople in 1967**, as the first pope to do so since 1054
- The Orthodox Church is willing to accept the ***Pope as first among equals***, but not as a bishop that can unilaterally bind the Eastern Patriarchs.

East-West Schism



- Pope Francis met with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in September 2019, with the two religious leaders having lunch together at the Casa Santa Marta.
- The Council of Cardinals then meeting, invited the Patriarch to greet participants ahead of his encounter with the Pope.
- In his brief remarks, Patriarch Bartholomew talked about the value placed on Synodality in the Eastern Orthodox Church.
- The current Catholic Synodality approach and final Synod in Rome in October 2024 - seems to have its genesis from the Patriarch's comment

12th Century



- At the **Concord of Worms** in 1122, between **Pope Calixtus II** and **Emperor Henry V**, the issue of **Lay Investiture and clerical oversight** was addressed - The **Church** would control **clerical ordination**, but the **civil ruler** could then invest them with **civil authority**
- **Popes, abbots and Bishops** in the **West** could be subject to **political** as well as **spiritual** leadership duties.
- For the next 200 years **Popes** formed alliances with various rulers and nations to keep the secular leaders from controlling the Church - while **preserving the Papal States**
- A great example is provided by **Pope Alexander III**, who aligned himself with the Lombards, to hold of Roman **Emperor Frederick I (Barbarossa)** from controlling Rome.



Europe Main Map at the Beginning of the Year 1100

Northwest

Northeast

12th Century



- On December 29, 1170 the Church lost the great **Archbishop Thomas Becket** by **martyrdom** in the **Canterbury Cathedral**. **St Thomas Becket** was influential at resisting **Henry II, King of England** in retaining the **rights and privileges of the Church**.
- His last words were: *“For the name of Jesus and the protection of the Church, I am ready to embrace death.”* Dressed in **holy robes**, St Thomas Becket was cut down by four knights, as he stood inside the walls of his own church.
- To absolve themselves, **the four knights who killed him** made their way to the **Pope in Rome**, who **commanded them to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land**. All four are believed to have died either in Jerusalem or on their way there.

12th Century



- Just War Doctrine - CCC 2309 -
 - ◆ Danger must be lasting, grave and certain;
 - ◆ All other means have been explored or are impractical and ineffective;
 - ◆ and the use of arms is proportional to the danger.
 - ◆ If so, prudence still requires that there be a reasonable prospect for success.
- St Thomas Aquinas authored the Just War Doctrine as it presently appears in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, building on St Augustine of Hippo's morality of war theory
- The Misconduct in the Crusades were not authorized by the Holy See. Pope Urban II was explicit in this regard.

12th Century



- The Third Crusade was lost to **Saladin (Salah al-Din)** [prayer of religion or faith]. He gave free passage to any who would not obstruct his recapture of Jerusalem.



Adeeb Jawad Joudeh Al Husseini

- **Salah al-Din** gave the **key to the Holy Sepulchre Church** to a Muslim family, so that it could be **opened and closed in peace** for the **Orthodox and Catholics**
- **The key** has been in the family for over 800 years - **passed son to son.**



12th Century

- The Cistercian Order became the prominent order of the 12th Century, replacing the Benedictine Order, but it also followed the monastic Rule of St Benedict.
- St Bernard of Clairvaux founded an abbey there and was a great preacher and theologian, who brought about a renewal in the Church
- The Cistercians found their renewal was met with the approval of factions that sought to be radically poor and austere, even to the point of drifting away from the umbrella of the Church.
 - The Albigensians (Cathars) emerged in control of Southern France, and became a challenge to the faithful - in that they were radical in their austerity, - and as such attractive to those who despised the richness of some of the clergy and Church buildings
 - Pope Innocent III initiated a crusade against them through the French Crown but it failed when it became political.

12th Century



- Notwithstanding the evolution of Heretical factions the **Cistercian Order brought new life to the Church**, in appearance and substance.
- **Gothic Churches** with High ceilings and spires became the new norm.
- Austere practices brought an emphasis to a **Crucified Jesus**, over a **victorious Christ**. This led to new **devotions to the saints** and the **Virgin Mary**
 - The **Memorare prayer** had its rudimentary form in the **writings of St Bernard of Clairvaux**, though it was penned as we know it a few centuries later
- A new emphasis on the Eucharist emerged, with emphasis on the sacrifice and the **“transubstantiation”** of the elements. The **bread that came down from heaven** gave way to the **sacrifice at Calvary** and the **worship and adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist**.

12th Century

- **Scholastic Theology** - The understanding of the faith through reason, became advanced with new schools and universities
 - **Fides et Ratio** - faith and reason as “complementary disciplines” became the new norm for academic study.
 - **Aristotelian philosophy** was reintroduced into theological studies, but with a strong emphasis on “dialectical” to extend knowledge
 - The “dialectical method” involves reasoned argumentation between two points of view, so as to discover truth through a reasoned approach. Key to the method is the exploration of common ground between two views that initially might appear to be mutually exclusive.
- ★ As the technique developed it would lead to great future contributions by Franciscan St Duns Scotus, and by Dominicans St Albert the Great and St Thomas Aquinas.


13th Century

- At Page 54; our Author describes the 13th century as the **flower of the Middle Ages**.
- In almost any area of life, the **Church was influential**, even in the **advancement of culture and learning**.
- The Height of Christendom was the result of **strong Popes, successful councils**, widespread adoption of **asceticism** resulting in the creation of **two major Religious Orders** - whose prominence continues even to today: The **Franciscan Order** and the Dominican Order.
- Even the **Crusades and Inquisition**, *contributed to growth*, though its fruit flowed by **compulsion**.



13th Century



- Perhaps the greatest pope of the 1200s was **Pope Innocent III**. Ruling from 1198-1216, he was a strong reformer who continued the legacy of **Gregory VII** (1073-1085).
- **Innocent III** reformed the **Roman Curia** (The Administrative bureaus of the Holy See), **massively expanded the Papal States**, **refused to concede Southern Spain and France to the Albigensian Heresy**, was an **active organizer of Crusades to the Holy Land and to Muslim held Spain**, and established strong control over the Church and World affairs.
-  He **cried deeply** at the 4th Crusade's **sack of Constantinople in 1202-1204 AD** by the Venetian led soldiers, and **excommunicated all participating Crusaders**.

13th Century

Fourth Council of the Lateran

- This **12th Ecumenical Council** held 1213-1215 - established the canons for reform of the Church. **St Peter's Basilica** was **extensively refurbished in preparation** for the **400 bishops** and over **800 abbots and priors** who would attend.
- After a Morning Mass, the Council opened as **Pope Innocent III** led the singing of "**Veni Creator Spiritus**" the 400 year old 9th Century hymn, before preaching about **Jesus' words** to his **Apostles at the Last Supper**.
 - "I will not leave you orphans ... The Father will send the **Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will remind you of everything I have said to you.**"

Fourth Council of the Lateran

- The 71 resulting canons, most theologians believe, were **actually drafted** by the **Holy Father Innocent III**.
- The canons cover **Church Reform** (*especially of the clergy*), **taxation exemption** for clerics, matrimony **permanency**, Tithing **before** taxes, **simony** (*the sale of privileges by church*), **Usury** Interest prohibition.
- **Transubstantiation** became a dogma. **Eucharist to be kept under lock and key**. **Inspections of Heretics** (*expulsion by Princes of those so found*), **Trials had to be recorded** in writing. **Sacraments once/year**.
 - **Exhortation for Greeks to rejoin the Church**, **Ordered the appointment of Preachers to assist priests**. (led to Dominican Order role) **Mandated Doctors to call a Priest in *causa mortis***.
 - **Disqualified Jews from Holding Public offices**. **Forbade New Religious Orders**. **No excommunication for debt**.

Fourth Council of the Lateran

- **and ... canon 15:**

Prohibited **drunkenness by clergy** and **the hunting of birds and dogs**



13th Century

The “**interaction**” between **Pope Innocent III** and **King John of England**.



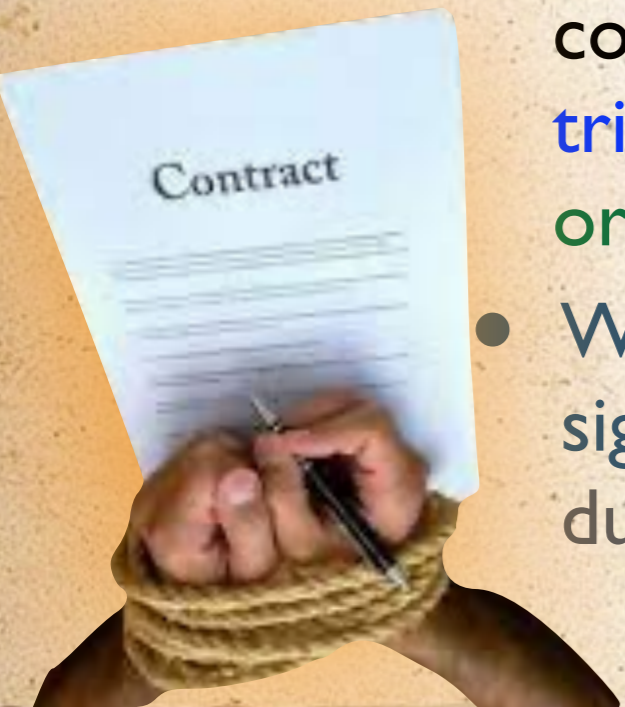
- In 1206, **King John** - *refused to accept the Papal appointment* of **Stephen Langton** as **Archbishop of Canterbury**. **King John** challenged the **authority of Pope Innocent III** to make an appointment of the Highest Bishop in England, so **Innocent III** **punished the King** with excommunication
- In 1212, **King John** **agreed** to have **Langton** become Archbishop of Canterbury. **John** also promised to **compensate the Church for its money and lands**, and affirmed his **loyalty to the Pope**.
The Pope gained tremendous prestige throughout Europe.
◆ **Pope Innocent** in **1213** ended **King John's excommunication**.

13th Century



- A **controversial act** by **Innocent the III** followed, given King John's crown was now under the protection of the Papacy
- The **Barons of England** sought to limit the power of **King John** who had succeeded his brother **Richard "The Lionheart."**
 - In 1215, they forced the King to sign the Magna Carta
 - The **Magna Carta** has laid a foundation for lasting legal concepts like the **ban on cruel and unusual punishments**, **trial by a jury of peers** and **that justice should not be sold or unnecessarily delayed.**
 - When it reached Rome that King John had been forced to sign, **Innocent III declared the Magna Carta null and void** due to the **duress** under which it was **executed.**

Contract



13th Century

- **Great Universities** that still exist today were founded in the 1200s, to accelerate learning:
 - **Paris - Theology.** Gave birth to **St Albert the Great** and **St Thomas Aquinas**
 - **Bologna - Canon and Civil Law** attracted those were already serving branches of **Government and Clergy.**
 - **Oxford and Cambridge** in **England**
 - **Naples** founded by **Holy Roman Emperor Frederick III**, was also attended by **Thomas Aquinas.**
 - **Salamanca** - Founded by **King Alfonso IX** - **oldest in Spain.**

13th Century

- Finally **Pope Innocent III** approved the founding of new orders by **St Francis of Assisi in 1209** and St Dominic Guzman in 1215. The final charter for the Dominicans would be finally approved by Pope Honorius III in 1216 by Papal Bull.
- ★ The Dominicans **cleared Southern Spain and France** of the **Albigensian Heresy**.
- **St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)** produced great Theological Works giving new life to **Aristotelianism** where consistent with Christianity. His greatest work **Summa Theologica** is still highly valued by theologians.
- ★ At the urging of Pope Urban IV, St Thomas composed the **Divine Office and Mass Liturgy for the Feast of Corpus Christi**



13th Century

- God spoke to St Francis of Assisi, instructing him to rebuild His church. Initially, St Francis thought God meant the little church in Assisi, that had fallen in disrepair.



- St Francis finally understood the greater mission and travelled to Rome to meet with Pope Innocent III, to start a mendicant Order. Initially Innocent III was leary of this poorly dressed simple man, inspired by God - but had a dream of Francis holding up the Pillars of the Church.
- Consistent with the Pope's interest in reforming the Church, Innocent approved of the Franciscan Rule and gave them permission to preach repentance, wherever the local Ordinary approved.

Now a 13 minute EWTN video on the INQUISITION period, which spanned several centuries. The video accurately portrays what occurred, the church role, and confronts false narratives.

