

*Student Handout
Packet*

*Church History 1
v3.0*

Church History 1

Required Reading

The following are required readings for each lesson.

LESSON I

- (1) *The Catholic Church Through the Ages: A History* by John Vidmar., Chapter 1: The Early Church pp. 1-45 (1-48)¹
- (2) Acts of the Apostles

LESSON II

- (1) *The Catholic Church Through the Ages*, Chapter 2: The Age of the Fathers pp. 46-87 (49-91)

LESSON III

- (1) *The Catholic Church Through the Ages*, Chapter 3: The Dark Ages pp. 88-118 (92-122)

LESSON IV

- (1) *The Catholic Church Through the Ages*, Chapter 4: The Middle Ages pp. 119-164 (123-171)

LESSON V

- (1) *The Catholic Church Through the Ages*, Chapter 5: Protestant and Catholic Reformations – Sections A-E only pp. 165-233 (172-241)
- (2) Optional Supplemental Reading: *A History of the Christian Tradition: From the Reformation to the Present* by Thomas D. McGonigle and James F. Quigley, p. 1-17 (Chapter 1)

¹ Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

**Lesson 1 – Handout 1
(Home Group Exercise)**

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages: A History* - Sections entitled “Jewish Sources”, “Roman Sources”, “Influence of Jewish and Roman Sources on Christianity” pp. 1-9 (1-11)²

- (a) What are some of the key traits of Judaism inherited by Christianity? What is their significance?

- (b) What was the Jewish Diaspora? In what ways was the Diaspora critical to the early spread of Christianity?

- (c) What was the *Pax Romana*? What were some of its features that were critical to the early spread of Christianity?

- (d) What socio-cultural aspects of the Roman empire assisted in the spread of Christianity among the Gentiles?

² Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* – Section entitled “Paul” pp. 20-24 (22-27)³

(a) Why is Paul, who never knew the historical Jesus, nonetheless regarded as one of the most important figures in the history of the early Church?

(b) What was at stake in the question of whether Gentiles who wished to be Christian needed to become Jews first?

(c) Where did Paul come down on the question of Gentile converts?

(d) What role did Paul take in the ultimate decision regarding Gentile Christians? What were some of the implications and ramifications of that decision?

³ Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* – Section entitled “Attacks on Christianity” pp. 25-31(27-33)⁴

- (a) What were some of the main causes of Roman persecution of Christians? What accusations were laid against the Christians by Roman society and authorities?
- (b) How would the Roman persecutions of Christianity before the year 250 best be characterized?
- (c) What caused a shift in the nature, duration, and extent of Roman persecutions of Christians around the year 250? How would these persecutions best be characterized?
- (d) Who were the *lapsi*? What were the different approaches toward them advocated by various groups? What decision ultimately prevailed?

⁴ Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

Lesson 1 – Handout 4
(Expert Group 3)

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* – Section entitled “Rival Religions” pp. 31-36 (34-39)⁵

- (a) What were mystery religions? What common characteristics did most of them share? How were they similar to or different from Christianity?
- (b) What is Gnosticism? What second century figure was a key person in the development of a Christian form of Gnosticism?
- (c) What was Montanism? Who founded this movement? What were some distinctive elements of it? What major historical figure was attracted to it?
- (d) What was an apologist? What attitude and approach did the apologists take toward Greek philosophy?
- (e) What led to the creation of a scriptural canon? What criteria came to be determinative regarding inclusion in the canon?

⁵ Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* –
Section entitled “The Life of the Early Church” pp. 36-42 (39-44)⁶

- (a) In what ways did the developing Christian liturgies borrow from both Jewish religious practice and Greco-Roman religious and cultural practice?
- (b) How was leadership in the early Church structured?
- (c) What is meant by the term “apostolic succession”? What role did this play in the early Church?
- (d) To what extent did the bishop of Rome enjoy some sort of primacy in the early Church? What reasons existed for this?

⁶ Here and throughout the handouts, the pagination is given first for the first edition of the book, published in 2005, and then, in parentheses, for the second edition of the book, published in 2015

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. The early Christian community struggled to find the balance between holding people accountable for their actions and calling them to live moral lives on the one hand and the desire to be merciful and compassionate, especially to those who buckled under intense pressure, on the other. How well do we negotiate this issue today? Are there tensions that we experience on this topic as well?
2. Christians in the United States are generally pretty free from overt persecution because of their Christian faith. That is very much not true in other parts of the world today. What actions have you taken, or ought you to take, on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world?

Lesson 2 – Handout 1
(Home Group Exercise)

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* History –
Section entitled “The Fathers of the Church” pp. 46-51 (49-54)

(a) What is meant by the term “Fathers of the Church” or “Patristic Writers”? What characteristics did this group of people who spanned several centuries share?

(b) What were some of the major contributions of the following figures: Tertullian, Origen, Jerome, Ambrose?

**Lesson 2 – Handout 2
(Expert Group 1)**

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* - Section entitled "The Papacy" pp. 51-55(54-58)

- (a) What is *caesaro-papism*? Why did the bishops of Rome fight against this idea?
- (b) What significant contributions did Leo I of Rome make in the developing understanding and role of the papacy?
- (c) What political realities helped to secure the independence of the Popes from imperial control? What pope(s) were key in effecting this reality? What tools did they use to secure this independence long-term?

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* –
Section entitled “The First Christological Councils” pp. 55-63 (58-66)

- (a) What was Arianism? Why was it a problem for the early Church? With what means was the problem dealt and by whom?
- (b) In what years and in what cities were the first four ecumenical councils held? What questions did they consider and what conclusions did they draw?
- (c) How did the Church eventually come to understand the idea of the development of doctrine during this period?

**Lesson 2 – Handout 4
(Expert Group 3)**

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* – Section entitled “St. Augustine” pp. 64-72 (67-75)

(a) Who was Augustine? Where was he from? For what is he best known?

(b) What was Manichaeism? How did Augustine argue against this religious movement?

(c) What was Donatism? How did the issue arise? How was it resolved and what role did Augustine play in this?

(d) What was Pelagianism? What did Augustine teach in contrast to Pelagianism? What impact did this have on Christianity?

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* –
Section entitled “The Rise of Monasticism” pp. 76-84 (79-88)

- (a) What were the initial impulses that gave rise to Christian monasticism? Where did this movement first begin? Who were the two figures that were most key in its development and popularization?
- (b) What are the key characteristics of Christian monasticism?
- (c) Who was Benedict of Nursia and what role did he have in the development and spread of monasticism in the West?
- (d) What influence did monasticism have on the broader Church and society?

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. Throughout the history of the Church, the foundation of new religious communities or the renewal/reform of existing religious communities (like the foundations of Christian monasticism in this period) have had profound impacts on the Church far beyond the individual members of the communities. Can you identify new religious communities or movements that are having a similar impact on the Church today?
2. In the fourth and fifth centuries, ordinary lay people took the finer points of theology so seriously that theological controversies sometimes led to public riots. That does not seem to be the case today. Why do you think that is? Is that good, bad, or indifferent?

Lesson 3 – Handout 1
(Home Group Exercise)

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* –
Section entitled “The Byzantine Church and the Eastern Schism” pp. 96-1031(00-107)

(a) What major cultural differences divided the Greek East from the Latin West?

(b) What major political differences divided the Greek East from the Latin West?

(c) What major religious differences divided the Greek East from the Latin West?

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* – Section entitled “The Barbarians” pp. 104-111 (108-115)

- (a) What socio-cultural characteristics differentiated the “barbarians” from the Roman Empire?

- (b) What were some of the techniques that the Roman Empire attempted to employ in dealing with the barbarians?

- (c) What effect did the invasion of Roman lands by the barbarian tribes have on the Church?

- (d) Who were some of the key leaders of barbarian tribes who interacted with the Christian churches in a positive way?

- (e) When was the Carolingian empire inaugurated, by whom, and what effect did its creation have on the Western Christian churches?

- (f) What is meant by the term Christendom?

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* – Section entitled “The Papacy” pp. 111-115 (115-119)

(a) What is meant by the term *monastic exemption*? What role did it play in the development of the papacy? What monastery was particularly key in this regard?

(b) What Pope in this era began the process of seriously reforming the papacy and the papal system?

(c) What is the College of Cardinals, how did it come about, and what was its intended role at its founding?

(d) What was Gregory VII’s name before he was elected pope? What was his most important writing on the papacy and what did it claim? With what emperor did he have a dispute and what became of it?

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. In modern times the Catholic Church has spoken of there being an ecumenical imperative and has undertaken efforts to engage in a process of restoring communion with the Eastern Orthodox Churches. Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athengoras I revoked the mutual excommunications of 1054 in 1965. Despite progress, full communion has yet to be restored. What concrete steps can you personally take to work toward healing this division?
2. During the early Middle Ages, the Church was intimately engaged in matters of state in Western Europe. It is not so engaged in the same fashion today. Is that good, bad, or indifferent? In what specific ways does this difference call us to live our Christian faith differently?

**Lesson 4 – Handout 2
(Expert Group 1)**

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* – Section entitled “The Crusades” pp. 119-132 (123-136)

- (a) What events were the proximate cause for Pope Urban II to call for a Crusade at the Council of Claremont?
What socio-political realities resulted in this call being heeded?

- (b) Briefly describe the history of the First Crusade and the People’s Crusade that preceded it.

- (c) What were some of the reasons that the Crusaders were unable to retain control of the land conquered in the First Crusade?

- (d) Why did the Fourth Crusade become a further stumbling block to healing the schism between East and West?

- (e) Are the Crusades something about which contemporary Christians should be proud or ashamed?

- (f) What were some of the ultimate effects of the Crusades?

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* –
Sections entitled “The Medieval Inquisition” & “The Spanish Inquisition” pp. 142-152 (148-158)

(a) What events led to the institution of the Inquisition during the Middle Ages? What was the intended purpose and goal of the Inquisition?

(b) Briefly describe the process by which the medieval inquisition was carried out?

(c) In what ways was the Inquisition open to manipulation and abuse? Was this common? What is a reasonable assessment of the Medieval Inquisition today?

(d) In what ways was the Spanish Inquisition like and unlike the Medieval Inquisition that preceded it?

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. Scholasticism and Mysticism were, in some respects, complementary trends within Christianity seeking to develop and balance the intellectual and affective elements of the faith. How do you keep these two elements in balance in your personal spiritual life?
2. The Crusades and the Inquisition are two elements of our history that today are typically viewed by the dominant culture in unremittingly negative lights. The author of our text, however, while acknowledging the reality of abuses (some of them horrific), says that there were some positive and legitimate aspects to each of these. How do you integrate both the positive and negative aspects of this part of our history into your spiritual life in a positive and productive way?

**Lesson 5 – Handout 1
(Home Group Exercise)**

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* –
Section entitled “The Reformation on the Continent” pp. 177-183 (184-190)

(a) What were some of the key political factors that contributed to and gave direction to the Reformation?

(b) What were some of the key philosophical factors that contributed to and gave direction to the Reformation?

(c) What were some of the key religious factors that contributed to and gave direction to the Reformation?

(d) What were some of the key areas of corruption within the Catholic Church that were contributing factors to the Reformation?

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* –
Sections entitled “Ulrich Zwingli”, “John Calvin”, “Anabaptists” pp. 196-204 (204-212)

- (a) Who was Ulrich Zwingli? With what location is he most identified? What were his contributions to the Reformation or with what religious ideas is he most identified? What groups today are most closely aligned with the teachings of Zwingli?
- (b) Who was John Calvin? With what location is he most identified? What were his contributions to the Reformation or with what religious ideas is he most identified? What groups today are most closely aligned with the teachings of Calvin?
- (c) What characterizes the reformation groups known as the Anabaptists? With what city were they most identified? With what result?

With reference to *The Catholic Church Through the Ages* –
Section entitled “The English Reformation” pp. 204-230 (212-239)

- (a) Why did Henry VIII desire to divorce Catherine of Aragon? How was this action the beginning of the Reformation in England?
- (b) Why and how were the dissolution of monasteries and the suppression of friars carried out in England? To what effect?
- (c) Who was Thomas Cranmer and what contribution did he make to the English Reformation?
- (d) In what ways was Anglicanism intended to be a compromise between Catholicism and Protestantism? How effective was this compromise?

Self-Reflection Questions - Personal Appropriation

Write about a paragraph answer to at least one of the following questions:

1. In 2002 and the years immediately following it became clear that there were bishops in the United States who had failed utterly in seeing to it that the children entrusted to the care of the Church's institutions were kept safe, attempting instead to protect the institution. Some people responded to this situation by leaving the Church, while others sought reform of the Church's structures from within. In way ways does this situation illuminate for you better what took place during the Protestant Reformation?
2. Are there areas of corruption within the Church today that are undermining the Church's mission of evangelization? What are you called personally to do in combatting them?

FTCM COURSE EVALUATION

Instructor's Name: _____ Course Title: **Church History 1 v3.0**

FTCM Center: _____ Your Name:(optional) _____

Please indicate the value of each of these methods as used in this course:

	Very Useful	Somewhat Useful	Not Useful	Not Applicable
Instructor's Lecture Portion				
Small Group Exercises				
Large Group Discussion Periods				
Question and Answer Periods				
Prayers				

Please rate the instructor and course as follows:

	Very Effective	Somewhat Effective	Not Effective	Not applicable
Instructor's ability to clearly explain difficult concepts				
Instructor's willingness/ ability to answer questions				
Instructor's ability to handle difficult people				
Use of the Catechism and Scripture in most lessons				
Overall rating of the Instructor				
Overall rating of content covered in the course				

Would you recommend this course to a friend? _____ Why or why not?