

Proclaiming Jesus Throughout History

**Highlights of
Catholic Church History**

We All Have a Personal History



My grandfather, John H. Paprocki (on the right) assisted by his brother Ignatius or "Uncle Iggy" (on the left) and an employee named Casey Kulis (center).

@1930



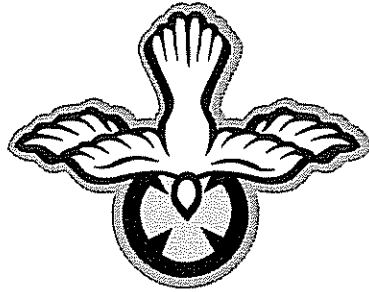
My Dad, John H. Paprocki Jr. (on the right) assisted by his sons, Ron (on the left) and Joe (center).

@1979

Before we look at our church history, we can look at our own family histories to see how we have been shaped by what and who has gone before us.

Our Church Has a History Too

- The Holy Spirit has guided the Church for over 2000 years and continues to do so today.



The key to this presentation is to focus on how the same Spirit that has guided the Church for over 2000 years is guiding the young people now and will come to them in a special way at Confirmation.

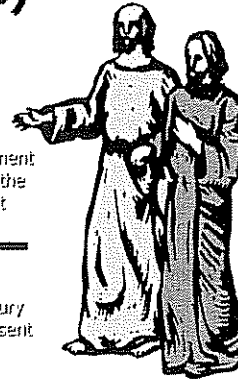
Church History in 5 Periods

- **The Apostolic Age and the Early Church
(1st – 5th centuries)**
- **Constantine Through the Early Middle Ages
(4th – 10th centuries)**
- **The Middle Ages
(11th – 15th centuries)**
- **The Reformation Through the Enlightenment
(16th – 18th centuries)**
- **Modern Times
(19th century to the present)**

These are the 5 time periods we will be looking at

The Apostolic Age and the Early Church (1st – 5th centuries)

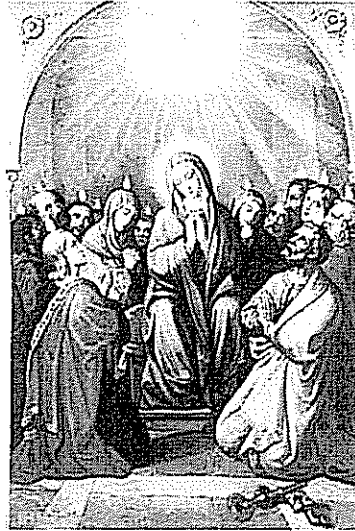
The Apostolic Age and the Early Church	Constantine Through the Early Middle Ages	The Middle Ages	The Reformation Through the Enlightenment	The Enlightenment Through the Present
1 st through 5 th centuries	4 th through 10 th centuries	11 th through 15 th centuries	16 th through 18 th centuries	19 th century to the Present



We begin with the first period of church history

Pentecost (33 A.D.)

- The Birth of the Church takes place when the Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles and Mary on the Feast of Pentecost.



Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter. After Jesus rose from the dead, he stayed with his Apostles for 40 days and then ascended into heaven. 10 days later, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles (Mary is traditionally believed to have been present) and the Church was born.

The Council of Jerusalem (50 A.D.)

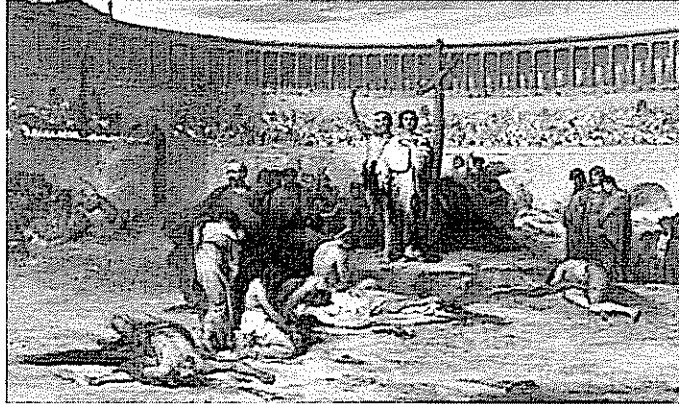
- Gentile Converts do not need to follow Jewish practices



The picture shows Peter and Paul. Some people were preaching that in order to become Christian, you first had to become a Jew. Paul adamantly opposed this. The Council of Jerusalem came down on his side. Gentiles – non-Jews – were not required to become Jews before becoming Christian.

Persecutions Under Nero (64 A.D.)

- The Emperor Nero begins persecuting the Christians



Christianity was illegal in the Roman Empire. The Emperor was seen as divine and since Christians refused to worship him, they were in violation of Roman law. Many Christians chose martyrdom over paying homage to someone other than God.

Peter and Paul Martyred (67 A.D.)

- Peter and Paul are Martyred in Rome



Peter and Paul chose to go to Rome to spread the Gospel because Rome was the capitol of the Roman Empire much like NY city is seen as the unofficial "capitol" of the U.S. Because Peter died there, his successors have all served as the bishop of Rome, and came to be known as popes.

Evangelists Finish Writing the Gospels (95 A.D.)

- The last Gospel, John, is written around the year 95 A.D.



For decades, the Good News of Jesus was spread orally, by word of mouth. Between the years 70 and 90 A.D., the synoptic Gospels were written: first Mark, then Matthew and Luke. Finally, the last of the 4 Gospels was written: John.

Early Monastic Life (251 A.D.)

- Monasticism begins under the influence of Saint Anthony of Egypt



Monasticism refers to people living together in a community, separated from the rest of society. The early monks tended to live out in the desert in very harsh conditions. They are sometimes called the "Desert Fathers"

The Church Fathers (300 A.D.)

- The Church Fathers influence Christian thinking (image of Saint Augustine)



The Church Fathers helped the Church to find ways to talk about God, the Trinity, Faith, Salvation, and many other topics. Some Church Fathers are: Justin Martyr, Augustine of Hippo, Irenaeus, Polycarp, Cyprian, John Chrysostom, Gregory of Nyssa, Basil, Ambrose, Leo the Great, and Gregory the Great.

Christianity Made Legal (311 A.D.)

- The Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, ending the persecution of Christians



In the picture, Constantine is shown having a vision of the cross of Jesus. He put the cross on the shields of his soldiers and marched victoriously into battle. He credited the power of the Cross of Jesus with his victory and made Christianity legal. He was baptized himself on his deathbed. If not for Constantine, gatherings of Christians would be illegal.

Ecumenical Councils (325/381 A.D.)

- The Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople produce the Nicene Creed



Some people were spreading false teachings about Jesus. The leaders of the Church gathered to put down in writing what the Church truly believes and teaches. The Nicene Creed was written at councils held in Nicaea and Constantinople.

Constantine Through the Early Middle Ages (4th - 10 centuries)

The Apostolic
Age and the
Early Church

**Constantine
Through the
Early Middle
Ages**

The Middle
Ages

The
Reformation
Through the
Enlightenment

The
Enlightenment
Through the
Present

1st through 5th
centuries

**4th through
10th centuries**

11th through
15th centuries

16th through
18th centuries

19th century to
the Present



We now move into the next period of church history.

Saint Benedict Finds a Monastery (529 A.D.)

- Saint Benedict founds an order of monks which helps preserve Christianity in Europe after the Fall of the Roman Empire



After the Fall of the Roman Empire, society was in a shambles. Monasteries, like the ones established by Benedict in Europe, brought stability to many areas and helped spread Christianity throughout Europe. Our present pope, Benedict XVI, named himself after this saint because he wants to help to bring Europe back to its Christian roots.

Pope St. Gregory the Great (540-604 A.D.)

- Pope St. Gregory the Great led the Church through difficult times, organized Rome, cared for the poor, instructed Catholics, and reformed the Mass.



Only 2 popes have been named, "the Great" – Leo and Gregory. Many today are calling for Pope John Paul II to be named "The Great"

Missionaries Spread the Faith (6th – 7th centuries A.D.)



- Saint Columban (550-615 A.D.) left Ireland and went to France to spread the faith. St. Boniface (675-754 A.D.) left England to spread the faith to Germany.



Until this time, much of Europe was pagan. Because of missionaries like Columban and Germany, Europe became almost entirely Christian for the next 13 centuries!

Charlemagne Named Holy Roman Emperor (800 A.D.)

- Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as the Holy Roman Emperor. After his death, Europe falls into chaos.



Charlemagne's rule as Holy Roman Emperor was a high point of church-state relations in what was left of the Roman Empire. The period following Charlemagne is often called the Dark Ages.

The Middle Ages (11th – 15th centuries)

The Apostolic
Age and the
Early Church

Constantine
Through the
Early Middle
Ages

**The Middle
Ages**

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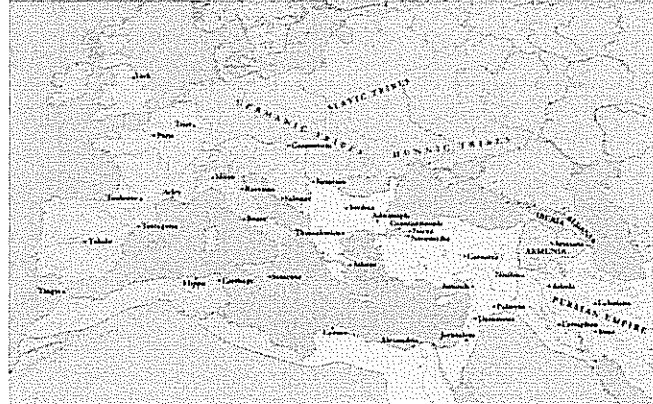
19th century to
the Present



We now move into the 3rd period of church history.

The Great Schism (1054 A.D.)

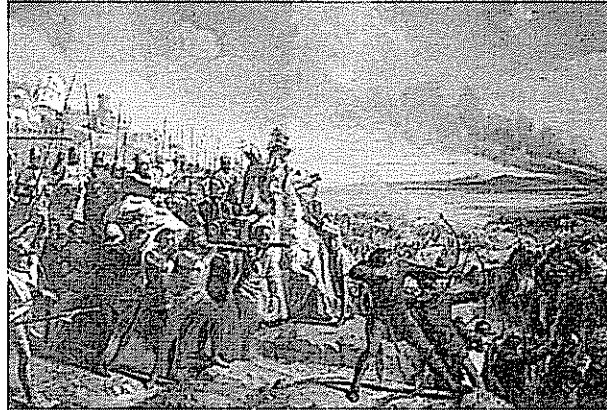
- The Roman Catholic Church (West) and the Orthodox Church (East) split



For the first 1000 years of Christianity, the Church was united, with several major centers: Rome in the West and Constantinople in the East. As time went on, the eastern and western cultures drifted apart and differences made unity difficult. Eventually, a split occurred between the Church in the East (Orthodox) and in the West (Roman Catholic). For nearly 1000 years, the 2 have remained separated and only recently have efforts begun to re-unite.

The Crusades (1095 A.D.)

- Pope Urban II calls for a crusade to regain the Holy Land from control of the Muslims



The Crusades DID reopen passageways to the Holy Land, allowing Christians to safely visit its holy places. However, in doing so, Christians slaughtered many Muslims and even Eastern Orthodox Christians. Bad feelings remain to this day between Christians and Muslims and Eastern and Western Christians because of the Crusades, almost 1000 years ago. Pope John Paul II apologized for these wrongs in the year 2000.