


St. Therese Catholic Church


Church History
Fr. Leonard Andrie

March 8, 2022

1

 **St. Therese Parish**

Epic: Timeline Bookmark (12 Periods – Color Coded)

WEAK LEADERS & SCHISM Black: Dark Time of the Church	PROTESTORS & DEFENDERS Oranges: William of Orange	THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION Gold: Holy Saints Reform the Church	REVOLUTIONS & MODERNISM Grays: Clouds of Industry & Intellectual Confusion	A WORLD AT WAR Bright Red: Color of Fascism and Communism	THE NEW SPRINGTIME Bright Green: The Springtime of Renewal	THE THRESHOLD OF HOPE Marian Blue: Pope John Paul II & Mary Our Lady of Hope
1300-1499	1500-1544	1545-1699	1700-1913	1914-1957	1958-1977	1978-Present
Vienna (1211-1312) Constance (1414-1418) Florence (1431-1445)	Lateran V (1512-1517)	Trent (1545-1563)	Vatican I (1869-1870)		Vatican II (1962-1965)	
	MUSTARD SEED Mustard Yellow: Parable of the Kingdom of God [Mt. 4:30 - 32]	PERSECUTION Dark Red: Blood of the Martyrs	CONVERSION & COUNCILS White: Empire Clothed White in Christ	MISSIONARIES & THE EMPEROR Purple: Royalty of the Holy Roman Emperor	CRUSADERS & SCHOLARS Navy Blue: Color of France: Land of Crusaders	
	33-99	100-312	313-499	500-999	1000-1299	
			Nicaea I (325) Constantinople I (381) Ephesus (431) Chalcedon (451)	Constantinople II (553) Constantinople III (680) Nicaea II (787) Constantinople IV (869)	Lateran I (1122) Lateran II (1139) Lateran III (1179) Lateran IV (1215) Lyons I (1245) Lyons II (1274)	

<https://ascensionpress.com/products/epic-a-journey-through-church-history-timeline-bookmark>

2

St. Therese Parish

The Family Weakens

- Read chapter 6 (pages 281 - 331)
- The Troubled Papacy (Avignon)
- The Black Death
- St. Catherine of Siena
- Constantinople Falls (1453)
- Spanish Inquisition
- The Renaissance Popes



3

St. Therese Parish

Overview

- This is a dark time in the Church. During this time, there were abuses and weak leaders. Additionally, there was a bubonic plague that killed millions of people.
- Along with the 70-year Avignon papacy, there were multiple people claiming to be pope. There were hints of rebellion with "proto-protestants" and the Roman Empire in the east collapsed in 1453.
- Finally, there were 10 Renaissance Popes who acted more like secular princes instead of universal shepherds. This period laid the foundation for the Protestant Revolt.

4



St. Therese Parish

Papal Finance

- Managing the papal curia and secular land holdings required massive revenue, which was raised through taxation, ecclesial fees, and loans with high interest rates from secular banking families (283).
- Many popes lived beyond their means, borrowing from Belgian-Flemish bankers to finance their wars and other temporal activity. The taxation caused a sense of resentment from secular rulers.
- The College of Cardinals, influenced by national interests, resulted in long conclaves.

5



St. Therese Parish

A Troubled Pontificate

- Boniface VIII (r. 1294 – 1303) made enemies, especially with the King of France. His pontificate was one of the most turbulent in Church history (285). He upset the Holy Roman Emperor, King of France, and King of England.
- Philip IV “the Fair” was the grandson of Louis IX. He did not possess the love of the Church and unselfish love of his people as his grandfather did.
- Boniface and Philip IV argued over the latter’s taxing of the Church for his military campaigns. The two had a strained relationship until Boniface’s death.

6



St. Therese Parish

Avignon Papacy

- Clement V (r. 1305 – 1314) was a weak leader and easily manipulated (1287).
- King Philip IV made three demands on Clement V:
 - Wanted Boniface VIII put on trial (like Formosus);
 - Demanded the Knights of Templars condemned in order to confiscate their wealth and land holdings in France;
 - Asked Clement V to move the papal residence to France.
- In 1308, Pope Clement V announced to cardinals his intention to move residence to south of France.

7



St. Therese Parish

Avignon Papacy

- Pope Clement V arrives in Avignon in spring 1309. Popes will live in Avignon for the next 70 years.
- He remained the Bishop of Rome and universal shepherd of the Church. However, it created the scandal of absenteeism and a loss of respect for the Church.
- Rome itself was neglected during the pope's long papal absence – cattle were stabled in the naves of St. Peter's and St. John Lateran (1289).
- Nearly all the cardinals and curia were French.

8

St. Therese Parish

Avignon Papacy

- Papacy took up residence from 1309 – 1377.
- Seven popes during this period – all of them French
- 111 of the 134 cardinals created were French.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/335870084693727434/>

9

St. Therese Parish

Avignon Papacy



https://www.horizon-provence.com/palais-des-papes-avignon/index_english.htm

10



St. Therese Parish

The Black Death

- During this time, disease of black death or bubonic plague arises from gnats or flees on rats. It's believed that it started in China in the 1330s and made its way to Europe in the 1340s.
- All areas of Christendom were affected by the plague, but England was hit the hardest. Three waves of the pestilence wreaked havoc in the country from 1350 – 1450. England's six million people was decimated (289).
- Symptoms included high fever, diarrhea and vomiting, headaches, convulsions, dizziness, restlessness, and delirium could be present in the patient (289).

11




St. Therese Parish

The Black Death

- In Avignon in March 1348, the mortality rate exceeded 50%; nearly 400 people died per day. During the five-week span, over 10,000 people were buried in a cemetery purchased by the pope for plague victims (289).
- Unfortunately, people reacted negatively against the Jewish people as a result of the plague. They blamed the Jews because they suffered fewer deaths.
- Pope Clement VI (r. 1342 – 1352) issued a bull excommunicating anyone who harassed the Jews (291).

12

 **St. Therese Parish**

The Black Death

Effects of the Plague	
Killed over 23,000,000 million people in Christendom (31%)	Plague devastated the Church's clergy, as they suffered higher percentage of mortality than the laity.
Estimated 50% of people in England died in one year	Best priests ministered to the sick and dying robbed the Church of good priests
Produced significant and lasting economic, legal, and spiritual effects	Priest shortage led to lowering of minimum age for ordination, which produced a Church staffed with uneducated and inexperienced clergy (290 – 291).

- **Key:** Plague laid the foundation for ecclesiastical abuses in 15th century

13

 **St. Therese Parish**

St. Catherine Siena

- Catherine was the youngest of 25 children born to a lower-class family; most of her siblings did not survive childhood
- She is one of the most famous saints in Church history (loved!)
- Her parents expected her to marry, but Catherine desired to enter the Third Order of the Dominicans (entered in 1366).



<https://catholicsaintmedals.com/saints/st-catherine-of-siena/>

14

St. Therese Parish

St. Catherine Siena

- At age 7, asked Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede for her to remain a virgin for life and be spiritually espoused to Jesus.
- She had the gift of knowing the state of souls in her presence.
- Those in mortal sin would produce a foul, pungent odor (291).



<https://udayton.edu/blogs/cce/2017/2017-4-29-catholic-herstory-catherine-of-siena.php>

15

St. Therese Parish

St. Catherine Siena

- When Catherine encountered the niece of a cardinal she met during her trip to Avignon, the smell was so horrific that Catherine had to flee from the woman's presence (291).
- Catherine performed many penances and mortifications: eating only bread and vegetables, sleeping for only thirty minutes a night (292).



<https://imgur.com/gallery/qYND4>

16

St. Therese Parish

St. Catherine Siena

- During a three-year stretch, she practiced complete silence, refusing to speak to anyone but her confessor and anyone he ordered her to speak with (292).
- In 1370, she subsisted only on the Eucharist (292).
- She received the stigmata five years later (invisible until after death) (292).



<https://www.thoughtco.com/catherine-of-siena-3529726>

17

St. Therese Parish

St. Catherine of Siena

- Catherine lived during the Avignon papacy and realized the great scandal caused by the absent pope.
- She began writing him letters in which she referred to the pope as “our sweet Christ on earth” and “daddy.” (293)
- Catherine pleaded for the pope to focus on spiritual matters and to return to Rome. She knew letters were not enough, so she decided to confront the pope face to face.
- She arrived in Avignon on June 18, 1376 where she stayed for three months (293).

18



St. Therese Parish

St. Catherine of Siena

- God granted Catherine a special gift of knowing about a private vow Pope Gregory had taken – if he became pope, he would move back to Rome (294).
- Pope Gregory promised to return, but then wavered. The French cardinals were pressuring him to stay.
- She wrote, “Up father, like a man! For I tell you that you have no need to fear” and “I beg you, on behalf of Christ crucified, that you be not a timorous child, but manly.” (295)
- Pope Gregory returned to Rome on January 17, 1377. Through the actions of Catherine, the pope returned home!

19



St. Therese Parish

The Great Western Schism

- The 70-year exile of the pope in Avignon weakened respect for the office. The great western schism weakened it further.
- Gregory XI dies in March 1378. Cardinals meet in conclave. The college was stacked with French cardinals. 16 cardinals gather and 11 of them were French (4 Italian and 1 Spanish). There was fear of a French pope and he would move back.
- Pope Urban VI (r. 1378 – 1389) was Italian. He was gruff, lacked charity, and ruled with an iron fist. He even became abusive toward the cardinals calling one a half-wit and another a liar. He mandated they eat only one meal (296).

20



St. Therese Parish

The Great Western Schism

- Catherine wrote: “For the love of Jesus crucified, Holy Father, soften a little the sudden movements of your temper” (296).
- The cardinals decided extreme measures should be undertaken. Five months after the conclave, they met secretly and declared the election of Urban VI had been forced on them by the Italian mob and, therefore, was null and void. They then elected an antipope (296).
- One of the French cardinals was elected and took the name Clement VII. The Church entered into the period of the Great Western schism, which would last a generation (296).

21



St. Therese Parish

The Great Western Schism

- Christendom was rent asunder, as secular rulers supported one papal claimant over another. Saints argued over the legitimacy of their candidate (296).
- The papacy, which is supposed to a sign of unity and fraternity, was now the reason for disunity and division (296).
- Catherine chastised the cardinals who created the scandal, calling them “pillars lighter than straw – flowers which shed no perfume, but stench that makes the whole world reek” (297).
- Pope Urban VI excommunicated the cardinals who elected Clement VII as pope. The latter declared war on Urban VI.

22

St. Therese Parish

The Great Western Schism

- Clement VII (antipope) dies in 1394. Cardinals in Avignon elected Benedict XIII (Spaniard).
- The University of Paris proposed a heresy called conciliarism that argued an ecumenical council has more authority and superior to the pope. It would affect the Church for the next several generations and was condemned at Lateran V in the 16th century.
- **Legitimate Popes:** Pope Urban VI died (1389). Pope Boniface IX succeeds, who died in 1404. He was succeeded by Innocent VII (r. 1404 – 1406), who in turn was succeeded by Gregory XII (r. 1406 – 1415).

23


St. Therese Parish

The Great Western Schism

- Cardinals from Rome and Avignon agreed to meet in Pisa to end the schism. They declared both Gregory XII (legitimate) and Benedict XIII (illegitimate) both heretics and excommunicated them and elected a third pope! Eek!
- Alexander V is elected and resided Pisa. We now have three men claiming to be pope:
 - Gregory XII in Rome (valid)
 - Benedict XIII in Avignon (invalid)
 - Alexander V in Pisa (invalid)

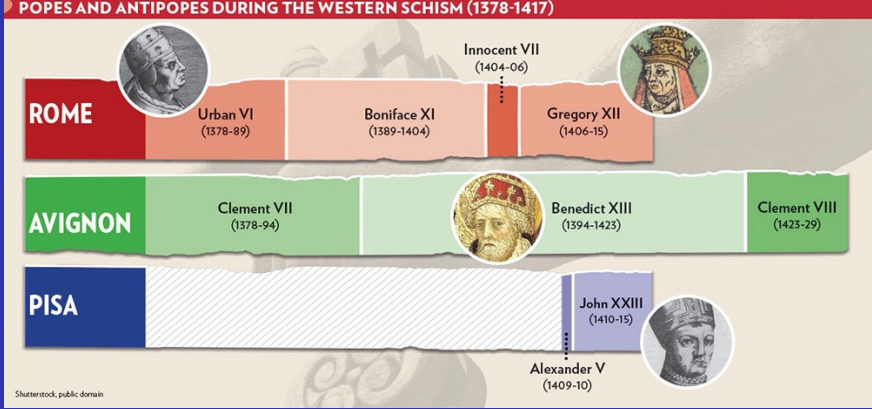


24

 **St. Therese Parish**


The Great Western Schism

POPES AND ANTIPOES DURING THE WESTERN SCHISM (1378-1417)



The diagram illustrates the Great Western Schism (1378-1417) across three locations: Rome, Avignon, and Pisa. It shows the reigns of various popes and antipopes, including Urban VI, Boniface XI, Gregory XII, Innocent VII, Clement VII, Benedict XIII, Clement VIII, John XXIII, and Alexander V. A source link is provided at the bottom: <https://www.osvnews.com/2019/06/16/schism-in-the-western-church/>

25

 **St. Therese Parish**

The Great Western Schism

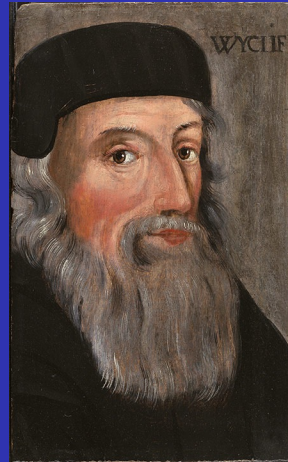
- The Great Western Schism was finally resolved at the Council of Constance (1414 – 1418). Nearly 100,000 people flocked to the city.
- The council solved the schism by first deposing the antipope John XXIII, who replaced Alexander V in 1410.
- It also deposed antipope Benedict XIII in Avignon. Pope Gregory XII (valid pope and who recognized the council) voluntarily abdicated his papal throne (the last pope to do so until Benedict XVI in 2013).
- Pope Martin V (r. 1417 – 1431) was elected (one pope again!).

26

St. Therese Parish

The “Proto-Protestants”

- John Wyclif studied at Oxford; exceptional student and professor of philosophy and theology
- He attacked the Eucharistic doctrine of transubstantiation (Eucharist was only symbolic)
- Adopted Donatist heresy – validity of sacrament relies on the minister



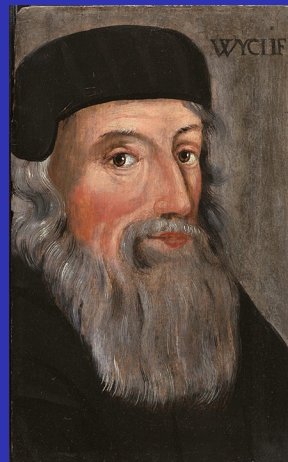
<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/john-wycliffe-condemned-heretic>

27

St. Therese Parish

The “Proto-Protestants”

- Church is an invisible transcendent society; not hierarchically structured under the pope
- Bible is the only authoritative source of God’s divine revelation
- Dismissed from Oxford; died of a stroke in 1384
- Council of Constance condemned him as a heretic after death (300).



<https://www.historytoday.com/archive/john-wycliffe-condemned-heretic>

28

St. Therese Parish

The "Proto-Protestants"

- Studied philosophy and theology at the University of Prague and appointed professor in 1398.
- Adopting Wyclif's teachings, he challenged Catholic doctrine on papal authority, *sola scriptura*, and denied Sacred Tradition.
- He condemned the veneration of the saints, granting of indulgences, Petrine office (302).



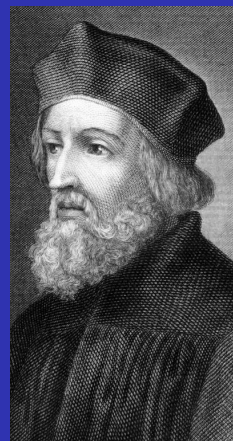
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/godzoos/2018/10/martyrs-jan-hus-christianity/>

29

St. Therese Parish

The "Proto-Protestants"

- His teachings were condemned, but he continued to preach them.
- Tried at the Council of Constance where the council condemned his teachings and declared a heretic.
- Remanded to the secular authorities and burned at the stake on July 6, 1415.
- JPII (1999) expressed deep regret for his death and consequences



<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/godzoos/2018/10/martyrs-jan-hus-christianity/>

30

St. Therese Parish

Constantinople Falls



<https://greekcitytimes.com/2020/05/29/on-this-day-may-29-1453-the-fall-of-constantinople/>

31

St. Therese Parish

Constantinople Falls

- Ottoman Turks rose in power in late 13th and 14th century. They made incursions into Eastern Europe.
- Mehmet II (“Drinker of Blood”) became sultan of the Ottoman Empire in 1451. He embarked on a policy of total domination over the Byzantine Empire (309).
- He waged war against Constantinople, which was hard to impregnate. Turks and Muslims had besieged many times, but did not conquer. Walls were 1,000 old and well maintained.
- Urban developed largest bronze-cast cannon in the world (27 feet). It fired a single shot (1,500 lbs) a full mile (309).

32



St. Therese Parish

Constantinople Falls

- They arrived outside Constantinople on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1453. They bombarded the city for six weeks.
- Inside the city, food was scarce, supplies were dwindling, and the constant Turkish artillery barrage and assaults had taken their toll (310).
- One of Mehmet's big guns opened a breach and Muslim warriors poured through the gap. Fighting was fierce for four hours, but the Byzantines held them off.
- Ottoman troops found an unguarded postern gate and poured into the city. 15,000 Muslim warriors were in the city (311).

33



St. Therese Parish

Constantinople Falls

- Muslim troops ran through the undefended city, slaughtered the inhabitants. Women, including nuns, and boys were savagely raped (311).
- Mehmet came into the city and entered the Hagia Sophia (built in 537 as the largest Church in Christendom) and declared it a mosque. 4,000 Christians were killed and 50,000 seized, of whom 30,000 became slaves (311).
- Constantine (r. 306 – 337) with mother Helena built the city. Constantine XI died fighting the city (mother Helena).
- Great Roman Empire of 2,000 years of history collapsed.

34

St. Therese Parish

Constantinople Falls

- The news of Constantinople's fall shocked Rome. The next three popes called Crusades to liberate Constantinople. Western nobility and leaders no longer listened as the papacy had been weakened with a loss of respect.
- Pope Pius II (r. 1458 – 1464) called for a Crusade to liberate Constantinople. Given very few responded, he decided to go himself to set an example.
- Large numbers did not materialize. Disease broke out and Crusaders died, including Pope Pius II in 1464.
- **Key:** Ground being set for the Protestant Reformation.

35

St. Therese Parish

Spanish Inquisition

- Central and northern Spain was home to 6 million people living in two kingdoms:
 - **Castile**
 - **Aragon**
- Muslim conquest in 8th century led to uneasy coexistence Jews, Christians, and Muslims.



<https://smarthistory.org/fifteenth-century-spanish-painting-an-introduction/>

36



St. Therese Parish

Spanish Inquisition

- Christian war to reconquer Spain from Islam constituted one of the longest wars in human history – it was waged for 780 years (from 711 to 1492) (315).
- Christian forces pushed Muslims to southern enclave at Granada. For the first time, Christians found themselves stronger than their Muslims overlords (314).
- King Fernando and Queen Isabel created a united Kingdom of Spain from respective kingdoms of Aragon and Castile in 1479 (314).

37



St. Therese Parish

Spanish Inquisition

- At first, the crown embarked on a moderate policy dealing with Muslims. With violent revolts in 1499, 1500, and 1501, the king and queen changed their policy to forced conversions (314).
- Muslims who converted were known as *Moriscos*. They converted publicly (jobs and positions), but maintained Islamic practices.
- It resulted in a general unease in Spanish society that the king and queen believed could undermine the crown and posed a national threat to the country (315).

38



St. Therese Parish

Spanish Inquisition

- Sadly, the Spanish neurosis concerning *conversos* led to the forced expulsion of the remaining Jewish population by the crown in 1492. Jews had been living in Spain since the third century (315-16).
- Fernando and Isabel petitioned Pope Sixtus IV (r. 1471-1484) to establish an institutional tribunal in Spain, under the control of the crown, to investigate heresy and the *converso* problem.
- The tribunal, known as the Spanish Inquisition, was not to act as a court of justice but as a disciplinary body called into existence to meet a national emergency. The Inquisition began on November 1, 1478 (316).

39




St. Therese Parish

Spanish Inquisition

- The Inquisition was driven more by political than religious concerns. National security and consolidation of power in the monarchy were the primary reasons for Fernando and Isabel's request (316).
- The work of the Inquisition was focused mostly in Southern Spain and in urban areas. An individual living in the rural areas of Spain could go his entire life without ever seeing an inquisitor, and 95 percent of the population never had any contact with the Inquisition (316).
- The Inquisition only had jurisdiction over baptized individuals.


40

 **St. Therese Parish**

Spanish Inquisition

- The Inquisition was overseen by the *suprema*, a body of six members appointed by the king, with an inquisitor general, who was nominated by the king and appointed by the pope.
- Tribunals consisted of two inquisitors (trained lawyers and theologians), an assessor, a constable, and a prosecutor. By 1495, tribunals were in 16 locations and reduced to seven cities in the early sixteenth century (317).
- The inquisitor general, Tomàs de Torquemada, set up the general procedures in 1484. The legal procedures were similar to those of the medieval inquisitors (317).

41


 **St. Therese Parish**

Spanish Inquisition

- The inquisitor followed the standard procedure below

Procedural Steps	Procedural Steps
Inquisitor preached at a Mass; people take solemn oath to support	Accused housed in ecclesiastical jail until hearing was completed
"Edict of grace" (30-40 days) for heretics to confess crime; if so, they received a light penance	Accused goods and property seized (returned if innocent)
Neighbors could denounce accused; names were kept secret	Accused allowed an advocate; could disable hostile witnesses
Inquisitor weighed the evidence and drew up charges	Torture was allowed to elicit a confession (rarely used – 2%)


42

 **St. Therese Parish**

Spanish Inquisition

- After the trial, the accused could be sentenced either publicly or privately in a ceremony known as the “act of faith.” (320)
Possible outcomes included:
 - If not enough evidence to support a conviction, the accused was acquitted.
 - Accused who were repentant received a penitential sentence that included swearing an oath to avoid sin; paying a fine; going into exile; enduring physical punishment, or serving prison time
 - Unrepented heretics were remanded to the state and burned at the stake, usually outside the city (320-321).

43

 **St. Therese Parish**

Spanish Inquisition

From 1540 to 1700	Comparison (Height)
44,674 cases brought before the Spanish Inquisition, only 826 obstinate heretics were remanded to the state for execution (2%). 80% of people were acquitted.	From 1478 – 1528, a total of 1,500 obstinate heretics were remanded to the state, which equates to thirty people per year.
Roughly same time for Protestant England, there was an average of 750 hangings per year for various crimes (120,000)	During the Reign of Terror (1793 – 1794) in the French Revolution, 300,000 suspects were arrested, 17,000 were executed and 10,000 perhaps died in prison or without a trial.

44



St. Therese Parish

Spanish Inquisition

- The Spanish Inquisition can be explained, but not justified.
- However, it produced positive results not elsewhere seen in Christendom. For example, it ensured religious peace when the rest of Christendom was convulsed in spasms of violence from the Protestant Revolution (321).
- Unlike other areas of Christendom, Spain did not produce a native heresy, and the Protestant movement never gained ground in the country (321).

45




St. Therese Parish

The Renaissance Popes

- A succession of ten popes from 1447 to 1521 are known as the “Renaissance Popes” not only because of their patronage of artists and their beautification efforts in Rome, but also because they primarily acted like secular princes instead of universal shepherds (323).
- Not all these popes were immoral, but they participated in ecclesial abuses of the day, which, along with the fourteenth-century papal crisis, contributed to a loss of respect and prestige for the Roman pontiff throughout Christendom (323).


46

 **St. Therese Parish**

The Renaissance Popes

Pope	Actions
Nicholas V (r. 1447 – 1455)	Collected manuscripts and rare books; collection became the Vatican Library
Calistus III (r. 1455 – 1458)	Engaged in nepotism (favored relatives / nephews)
Sixtus IV (r. 1471 – 1484)	Created two cardinal nephews
Innocent VII (r. 1484 – 1491)	Fathered two illegitimate children before becoming pope
Alexander VI (r. 1492 – 1503)	Took mistress as pope (she was 19, he was in 60s)

47

 **St. Therese Parish**

The Renaissance Popes

- **Pope Julius II** (r. 1503 – 1513): Epitome of the Renaissance man, with his taste of art, architecture, and carnal pleasures, and had fathered three illegitimate children in his youth (329).
- In 1506, he asked Swiss Diet for a permanent corps of 200 Swiss mercenaries to form his personal bodyguard. The Swiss Guards swore allegiance to the pope and were given the title “Defenders of the Liberty of the Church.” The Swiss Guard has continuously protected the pope since the 16th century, and no pope has been killed under their watch (329).
- He had Michelangelo paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

48



St. Therese Parish

Summary

- The century of papal crisis produced noteworthy problems for the Church in the sixteenth century. The seventy-year Avignon papacy and the forty-year Great Western Schism resulted in a loss of respect and prestige.
- Secular rulers no longer obeyed the pope nor looked to the successor of Saint Peter as a unifying force in Christendom. The actions of the Renaissance popes fashioned the belief that the Roman pontiff was more concerned with temporal affairs than spiritual ones, which produced indifference (331).

49



St. Therese Parish

Summary

- When the revolt against the Church began in Germany, the popes were not in a strong position to contain it, and the Church suffered greatly as a result.
- The abuses of the past centuries, along with resentment against the excesses of the Church and a change in the political structuring of Christendom, all factored into the grave crisis of the sixteenth century, when the family of God faced its biggest challenge (331).

50

The Great Divorce (Part I)

- Read chapter 7 (pages 333 - 376)
- Factors that led the Protestant Revolution
- Martin Luther and Salvation
- Indulgences and the 95 Thesis
- Luther's Three Treatises
- Advance of the Protestant Movement

