

# ***Church History***



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- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20<sup>th</sup> century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21<sup>st</sup> century



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- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries
  - *The “Dark Ages” Overview*
  - *Flagrant Abuses of Authority: Zeno, Theodoric, and Clovis*
  - *Auctoritas Sacrata Pontificum: Gelasius*
  - *The Rise of the Monk: Benedict, Brendan, and Dennis*
  - *The Politics of Death: Justinian and Columba*
  - *Kingdoms of God*
  - *Streamlining the Church*
  - *European Empires: The Carolingians*
  - *European Empires: The Northmen*
  - *Centuries of In-Fighting (part 3)*





# *The Early Middle Ages*

- In Church news...

950±

Cluny reforms began to catch on

- After a succession of under-impressive popes Abbot Odo of Cluny (in Central France) began a series of reforms to clean up the clergy
  - No more bribes, no more nepotism, no more concubinage, no more greed
  - Not only did this catch on—especially amongst the monasteries of Europe—but it also ironically paved the way for monasteries (now freed from having to pay taxes and bribes to their local lords) to become major economic and political powers in their own right
    - They even began to train in martial arts to form their own “holy orders” of “Christian armies” of knights...



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Dunstan became Archbishop of Canterbury

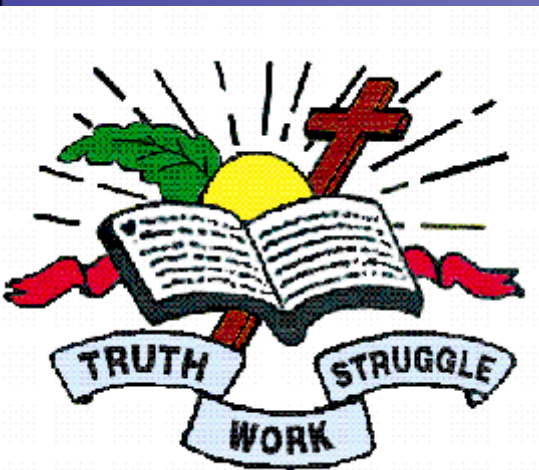
- The son of a nobleman in Wessex, Dunstan embraced Cluny's reforms and took them to a new level, pressing toward self-sacrifice and self-abasement as acts of worship
  - He denounced simony because it was born from greed, and greed from the desire for comfort, and that desire was itself a sin
  - He was also thus one of the first major Church church leaders to demand absolute celibacy on the part of clergy, since sex and sexual desire were by their nature inherently sinful





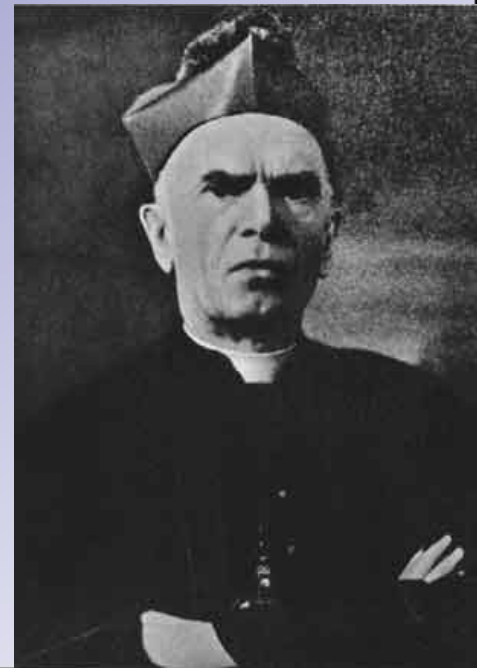
# *The Early Middle Ages*

- Funky little teaching moment—
  - Last week, the question came up about Catholic churches that *do* allow priests to marry—such as the Polish National Catholic Church
  - The answer is that those Catholic churches have broken communion with the Roman Catholic Church—and there are a lot of churches that have:
    - American National Catholic Church
    - Anglican Catholic Church
    - Apostolic Catholic Church
    - Brazilian Catholic Apostolic Church
    - Catholic Mariavite Church
    - Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association
    - Fraternite Notre Dame
    - Lithuanian National Catholic Church
    - Mariavite Catholic Church
    - Old Catholic Church
    - Palmarian Catholic Church
    - Philippine Independent Church
    - Polish National Catholic Church
    - Ukrainian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church
    - etc.
  - How is it ironic that most of these continue to call themselves “Catholic” churches?



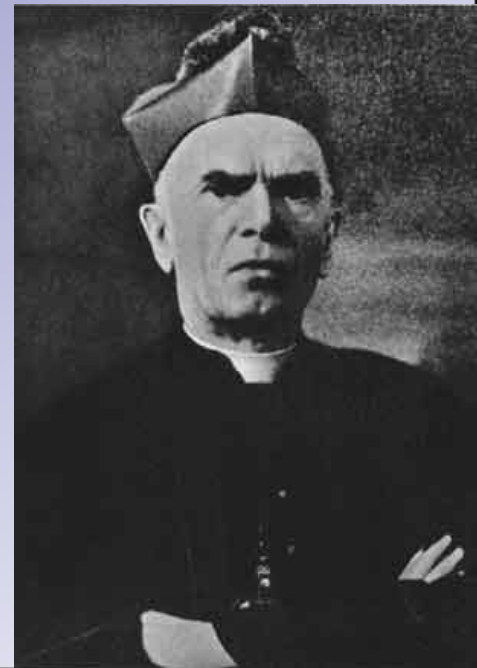
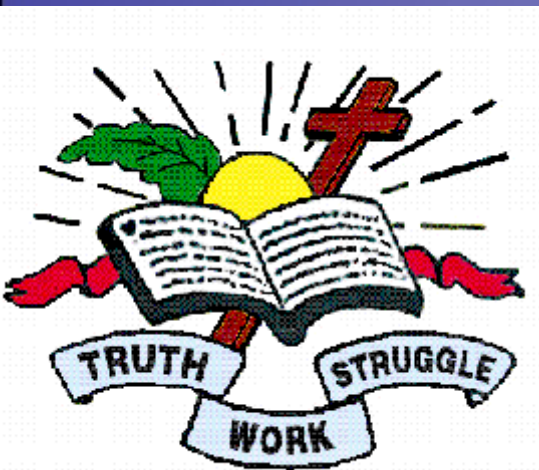
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    - The Polish National Catholic Church broke away at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century over the ways that Roman Catholics allowed Poles to be mistreated by Italian, Irish, and German Catholics here in the United States
      - Bishop Franciszek Hodur tried to petition Rome to address the issues, but Pope Leo XIII wasn't interested in getting mired in American squabbles
        - FYI—Pope Leo was the pope who most emphasized the use of the rosary in modern times, and supported his predecessor (Pope Pious IX) in arguing for Mary as Co-Redemptrix of humanity



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      - Bishop Franciszek Hodur tried to petition Rome to address the issues, but Pope Leo XIII wasn't interested in getting mired in American squabbles
      - So in 1904, the Polish National Catholic Church began under Hodur in Scranton, Pennsylvania
        - Contrary to Roman Catholicism, they support marriage of clergy, the right for divorced people to take Communion, and the use of birth control





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    - The Polish National Catholic Church broke away at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century over the ways that Roman Catholics allowed Poles to be mistreated by Italian, Irish, and German Catholics here in the United States
  - **Remember: This sort of in-fighting is nothing new, and pre-dates the Reformation by centuries**



# *The Early Middle Ages*

- **Back to Church news...**

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Dunstan became Archbishop of Canterbury

**Antipope Boniface VII came to power**

- Boniface's rival, Benedict VI, was given the Papal throne by Otto the Great himself in 973 so Boniface murdered him in 974 (after Otto's death) and took the power for himself

- In just a little over a month, new Emperor Otto II sent troops to remove him, and public outcry against him had risen so much that there were riots in the streets

- So he stole a large chunk of the Papal treasury and fled to Constantinople, where he was given shelter by Emperor John I





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- **Otto II named John XIV to be the next pope so when Otto died suddenly, leaving his three-year-old son as the only heir to the throne, Boniface returned to Rome, murdered John, and claimed the papacy again**

- **Within a year, he himself was poisoned, and the dead body of the Pope was dragged naked through the streets of Rome while the people cheered**





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**Vladimir the Great was converted**

**If you'll remember, Vladimir was king of the Rus' Viking tribe**

- In an attempt to solidify his power through religion, he sent emissaries to the neighboring kingdoms to see what religions there were to choose from
  - He rejected the Judaism of the nearby Khazar Khaganate because the Jews had lost Jerusalem to the Muslims, and were thus weak
  - He rejected Islam because the Muslims prohibited drinking alcohol, and he declared that "Drinking is the joy of all Rus'. We cannot exist without that pleasure..."
  - So that left Christianity—but which *version* of Christianity?



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- In an attempt to solidify his power through religion, he sent emissaries to the neighboring kingdoms to see what religions there were to choose from
  - He rejected Roman Catholicism because he thought their churches were ugly
  - But he embraced Byzantine Christianity because he thought that Constantinople was the most beautiful city on the face of the Earth ...and because he was then able to marry Anna, the wealthy sister of Emperor Basil II...
    - So he immediately tore down all pagan altars and ordered the mass baptisms of all the Ukrainian and Rus' tribes
    - By standardizing the worship, he laid the groundwork for what would evolve into the Eastern Orthodox Church





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- **989 The Peace of God and the Truce of God...**

- Europe had embraced the strategy of a standing cavalry of knights—especially when they saw how well it worked in England for King Ælfred
  - But once the continent was more or less at peace again, what do you do with a bunch of standing armies, working for a bunch of scheming, self-serving lords?
  - In-fighting was tearing Europe apart, so the Church came up with a novel concept—the *ideal of knighthood*





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- **989 The Peace of God and the Truce of God...**

- At the Abbey of Charroux, King Hugh Capet worked with the Church to establish three canons to govern the actions of knights—basic principles of “*chivalry*” (i.e.; “horsemanship”)
  - They called for a grand event, where the clergy brought in holy relics and called for all of the lords and knights to swear on the bones of the saints that they would abide by the canons
    - Included in these canons were that knights must swear—*on the bones of the saints*—never to revolt against their lords or kings, never to harm a cleric or to rob a church, never to rob from the peasants whom their lord had entrusted them to police and protect, and that they must never fight on holy days (especially Sundays and Lent)





# Back

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- As part of this event, they encouraged knights to “blow off steam” by engaging in mock combat to demonstrate their prowess
  - Because jousting required turning in the lists, this was referred to as a “*tournei*,” and the event in which such *tourneys* occurred was called the “*torneiment*”





# Back

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- As part of this event, they encouraged knights to “blow off steam” by engaging in mock combat to demonstrate their prowess
- Tournaments—though still often quite dangerous to the competitors—became an essential, regular means of venting aggression and frustrations
  - But even better would be if somehow, the Church could find some *non-European* enemy for knights to fight...

