

Church History



Church History

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



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
 - *Welcome to the Renaissance*
 - *Turnovers...*
 - *The Black Death and a Century of War*
 - *Wobbling Out of Control (part 2)*



The Renaissance

- The Church decided Councils fix *everything*
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - Thomas Arundel, the Archbishop of Canterbury, forbade the translation of the Bible into English and—under the orders of good King Henry IV—condemned all Lollards to be burnt at the stake for the crime of heresy
 - The two worst crimes they were accused of:
 - 1) They denied transubstantiation
 - 2) They encouraged people to pray and read the Bible for themselves



The Renaissance

- The Church decided Councils fix *everything*
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - Thomas Arundel, the Archbishop of Canterbury, forbade the translation of the Bible into English and—under the orders of good King Henry IV—condemned all Lollards to be burnt at the stake for the crime of heresy
 - The Council declared that it was dangerous to allow people to translate the Bible
 - “We therefore command and ordain that henceforth no one translate the text of Holy Scripture into English or any other language as a book, booklet, or tract, of this kind lately made in the time of the said John Wyclif or since, or that hereafter may be made, either in part or wholly, either publicly or privately, under pain of excommunication”
(unless such translations were approved by the proper Church authorities... which they never were)



The Renaissance

- The Church decided Councils fix *everything*
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - Thomas Arundel, the Archbishop of Canterbury, forbade the translation of the Bible into English and—under the orders of good King Henry IV—condemned all Lollards to be burnt at the stake for the crime of heresy
 - The Council declared that it was dangerous to allow people to translate the Bible
 - It was also dangerous to allow people to pray on their own, so the Council declared it heresy (punishable by burning) to teach your children to pray on their own
 - It was now officially illegal to actively live out your Christian faith anywhere but within a church building
 - Do we still deal with the effects of this sort of thinking, even in *our* church today?
 - If so, then *why*?



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - 1408 was also the year that Zsigmond of Luxemburg founded the Order of the Dragon
 - Echoing the Holy Orders founded by the Church such as the Knights Templar and Hospitaller the Order of the Dragon was dedicated to rooting out Satan's evil and destroying it by military force (NOTE: They derived their name from the legend of Saint George, who was famous for having chivalrously slain a dragon in Libya)
 - (NOTE²: If you'll remember, "Saint George" was actually *Georgius*, the Christian captain of Diocletian's imperial guard, who chose a slow, torturous death in 303 rather than renounce his Christianity)



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - 1408 was also the year that Zsigmond of Luxemburg founded the Order of the Dragon
 - Echoing the Holy Orders founded by the Church such as the Knights Templar and Hospitaller the Order of the Dragon was dedicated to rooting out Satan's evil and destroying it by military force
 - But instead of being founded by the Church, the Order of the Dragon was founded by and from within the various powerful families of Eastern Europe
 - Two of those important families included:
 - House Drăculești of Wallachia, from whose ranks rose Vlad Tepes (the "Impaler")—a ruler so blood-thirsty that Bram Stoker used him as a basis for his vampire, Dracula



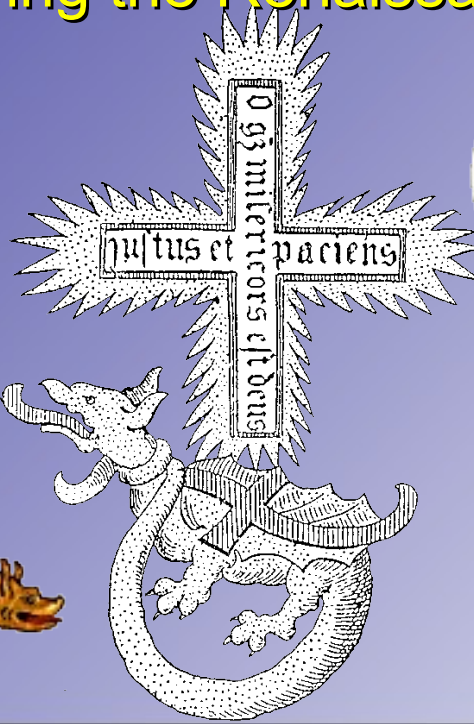
The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - 1408 was also the year that Zsigmond of Luxemburg founded the Order of the Dragon
 - Echoing the Holy Orders founded by the Church such as the Knights Templar and Hospitaller the Order of the Dragon was dedicated to rooting out Satan's evil and destroying it by military force
 - But instead of being founded by the Church, the Order of the Dragon was founded by and from within the various powerful families of Eastern Europe
 - Two of those important families included:
 - House Drăculești of Wallachia
 - House Báthory of Slovakia, from whose ranks rose Erzsébet Báthory—who serial murdered upwards of 600 young women (according to legend in order to bathe in their blood to remain eternally young and beautiful)



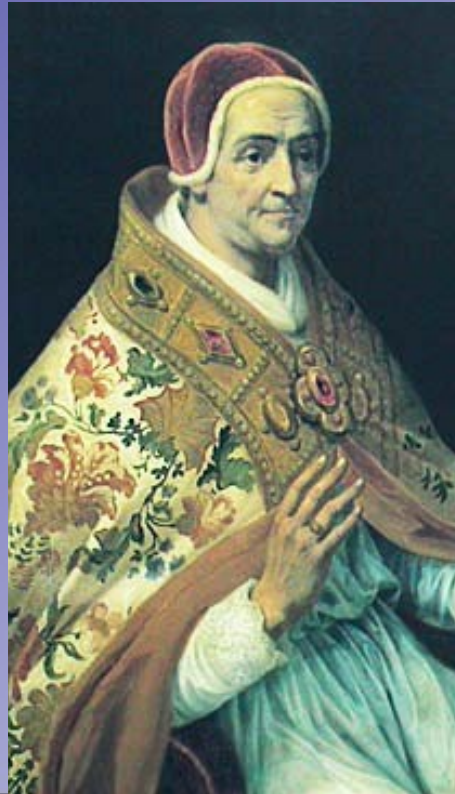
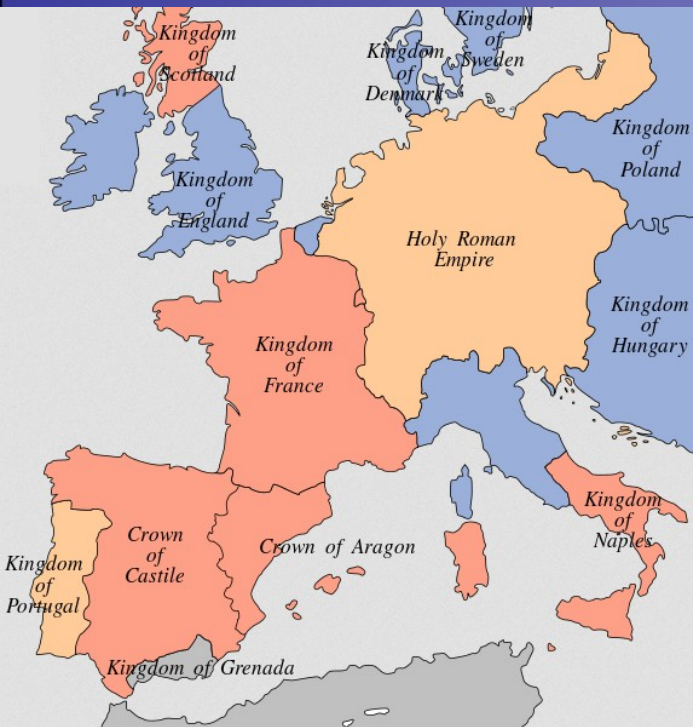
The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - 1408 was also the year that Zsigmond of Luxemburg founded the Order of the Dragon
 - The Order's official power ebbed with Zsigmond's death in 1437, but with the influx of the Ottoman Turks into Eastern Europe in the mid-1400s, the symbol of the Dragon became a rallying point
 - Versions of it can be seen depicted in many of the Eastern crests and tapestries created during the Renaissance



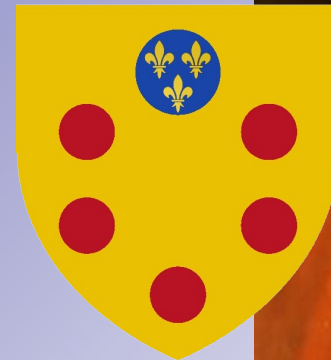
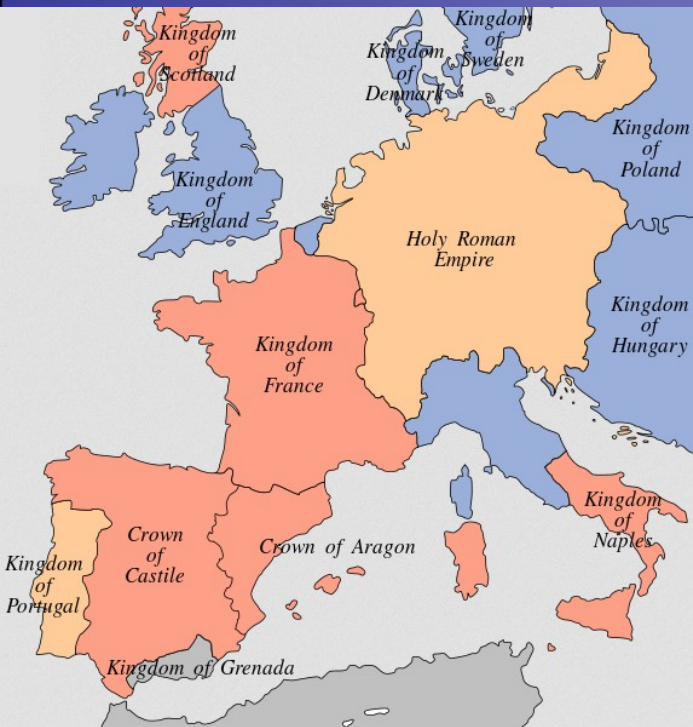
The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - 1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism
 - The Western Schism
(since 1378, with two competing Papacies going at the same time—one in Avignon and the other in Rome—and the European kingdoms split over which one to support)



The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - 1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism
 - The Western Schism wasn't getting any better, so the top theologians and cardinals from Rome (including Baldassare Cossa, an up-and-coming cardinal from Naples and a good friend to the wealthy Giovanni di Medici)



The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**

1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible

1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism

- The Western Schism wasn't getting any better, so the top theologians and cardinals from Rome and the top ones from Avignon got together in neutral Pisa to hash things out

- They decided that the only way to reunite the Church was to ask both Popes to step down, and mutually agree on a new one to succeed them both

- So the Spanish Pope Benedict XIII in Avignon and the Venetian Pope Gregory XII in Rome were asked to resign from their positions, and Cretan Pope Alexander V was installed

- But neither of the Popes would step down



The Renaissance

- The Church decided Councils fix *everything*

1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible

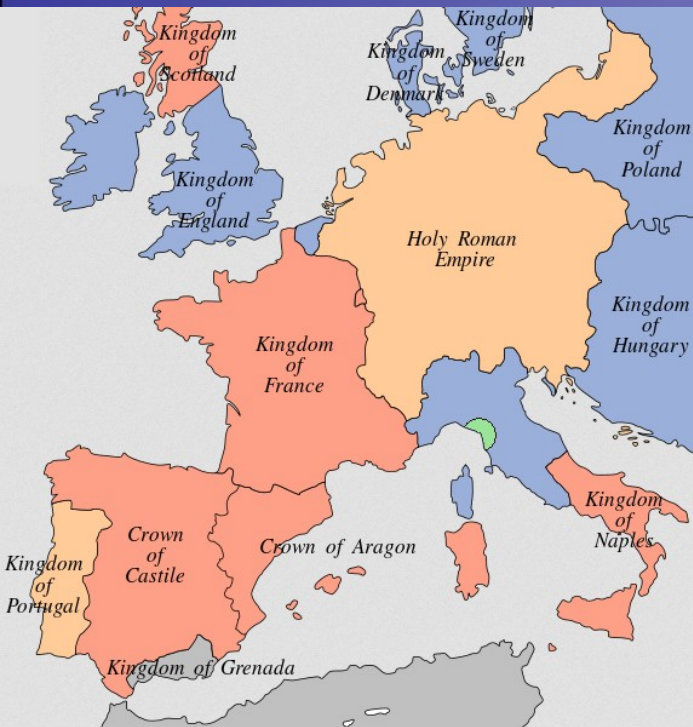
1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism

- The Western Schism wasn't getting any better, so the top theologians and cardinals from Rome and the top ones from Avignon got together in neutral Pisa to hash things out

- They decided that the only way to reunite the Church was to ask both Popes to step down, and mutually agree on a new one to succeed them both

- So the Spanish Pope Benedict XIII in Avignon and the Venetian Pope Gregory XII in Rome were asked to resign from their positions, and Cretan Pope Alexander V was installed

- But neither of the Popes would step down so now there were *three* duly-elected Popes—one in Rome, one in Avignon, and now one in Pisa (each believing that he was God's one and only vicar on the planet, since that was the prevailing ecclesiology of the day)—and the Schism got worse



The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**

1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible

1409 **The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism**

- The Western Schism wasn't getting any better

- To establish himself as an honest-to-goodness Pope, Alexander made several proclamations

- He declared Duke Louis II of Anjou to be the new king of Naples, gaining a political ally

- He also declared that all writings by John Wycliffe should be burned

- And in the same Papal decision, he also excommunicated Jan Hus, a follower of the teachings of John Wycliffe



The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**

1408

The Council of Oxford banned the Bible

1409

The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism

- The Western Schism wasn't getting any better
- To establish himself as an honest-to-goodness Pope, Alexander made several proclamations
- Alexander reigned for 10 months, and then died
- He was succeeded by the Neapolitan noble, Cardinal Baldassare Cossa—Pope John XXIII—who had become powerful through his personal connections with the local highway robber gangs as well as the Medici family
 - John reigned as Pope in Pisa for five years and the Medici became the official bank for the Papacy—growing their already considerable fortunes
 - He was also an avowed atheist
 - He made no secret of the fact that the only reason that he'd gotten into the priesthood was because he saw it as another racket
 - At the later Council of Constance, he was convicted on charges of heresy, simony, sodomy, tyranny, incest, piracy, schism, and immorality



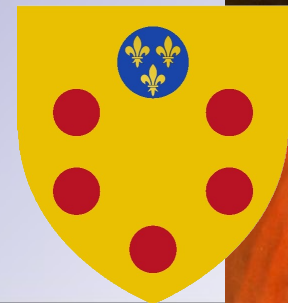
The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - 1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism
 - **1414 The Council of Constance dealt with the Schism**
 - King Zsigmond was sick of all of this politicking, when there was so much evil abroad, and he called for a new Council to fix everything
 - Taking a cue from the Council of Pisa, an ecumenical council asked Pope Benedict XIII, Pope Gregory XII, and Pope John XXIII to resign their Papacies



The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - 1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism
 - 1414 **The Council of Constance dealt with the Schism**
 - King Zsigmond was sick of all of this politicking, when there was so much evil abroad, and he called for a new Council to fix everything
 - Taking a cue from the Council of Pisa, an ecumenical council asked Pope Benedict XIII, Pope Gregory XII, and Pope John XXIII to resign their Papacies
 - With Zsigmond's power backing the decision, both Gregory and John resigned
 - (actually, John escaped punishment by the Council by dressing up like a mailman and getting smuggled out by the Medicis)



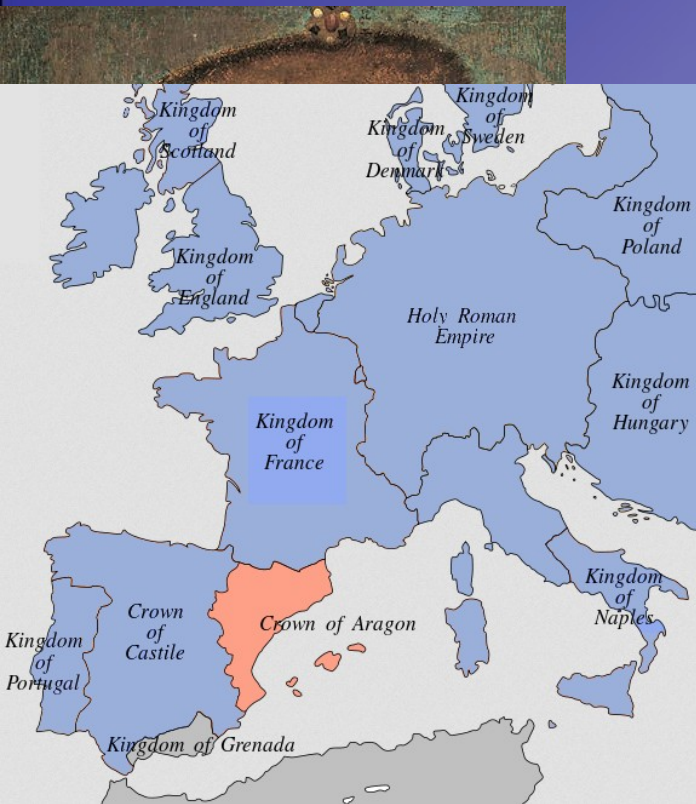
The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - 1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism
 - 1414 **The Council of Constance dealt with the Schism**
 - King Zsigmond was sick of all of this politicking, when there was so much evil abroad, and he called for a new Council to fix everything
 - Taking a cue from the Council of Pisa, an ecumenical council asked Pope Benedict XIII, Pope Gregory XII, and Pope John XXIII to resign their Papacies
 - With Zsigmond's power backing the decision, both Gregory and John resigned, but Benedict refused to let go of the power
 - He demanded his right to rule, based on the argument that he was the only remaining Pope who'd been elected *before* the official Schism
 - But only Aragón supported him, so that's where he fled to, living out the rest of his life in exile
 - He was given asylum there by King Alfonso V—who was a knight of the Order of the Dragon



The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - 1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism
 - **1414 The Council of Constance dealt with the Schism**
 - King Zsigmond was sick of all of this politicking, when there was so much evil abroad, and he called for a new Council to fix everything
 - Taking a cue from the Council of Pisa, an ecumenical council asked Pope Benedict XIII, Pope Gregory XII, and Pope John XXIII to resign their Papacies
 - With Zsigmond's power backing the decision, both Gregory and John resigned, but Benedict refused to let go of the power
 - He demanded his right to rule, based on the argument that he was the only remaining Pope who'd been elected *before the official Schism*
 - But only Aragón supported him, so that's where he fled to, living out the rest of his life in exile—everyone else supported installing a *new new Pope*



The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - 1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism
 - **1414 The Council of Constance dealt with the Schism**
 - King Zsigmond was sick of all of this politicking, when there was so much evil abroad, and he called for a new Council to fix everything
 - **The Council argued that the college of cardinals was—technically—above even the Pope, since they were the ones who installed the Popes, and as a demonstration of this, they installed the new Pope Martin V—a powerful Roman noble, who had once been excommunicated by Gregory XII because he'd supported John XXIII**
 - One of Martin's first official acts was to issue a Papal bull condemning Jan Hus and all those who followed him and the teachings of the Lollards



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Jan Hus was born in Bohemia, and excelled in both theological study and preaching
 - He became enamoured of the teachings of John Wycliffe, and began preaching a version of them from his pulpit at the University of Prague
 - So Gregory XII strongly censured his teachings and put pressure on Wenceslaus IV (the king of Bohemia) to get him to stop
 - But Wenceslaus not only liked Hus—he *didn't* like his ambitious brother, Zsigmond
 - Thus, he actively supported Hus



The Renaissance

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Jan Hus was born in Bohemia, and excelled in both theological study and preaching
 - **In 1409, new Pope Alexander V condemned Wycliffe's teachings—and excommunicated Hus** (not only because of Hus' stance on things like Church corruption, transubstantiation, and the translation of Scripture into native tongues, but also because it jabbed his political rival, Wenceslaus)



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Jan Hus was born in Bohemia, and excelled in both theological study and preaching
 - In 1409, new Pope Alexander V condemned Wycliffe's teachings—and excommunicated Hus
 - Because Naples had supported both Gregory XII and Martin V, John XXII called for a crusade against the region, for backing “the wrong Popes”
 - In order to pay for this crusade, John sold indulgences... in *Bohemia*...

This torqued off Hus, Wenceslaus, and pretty much every Bohemian (who were getting tired of being Papal punching bags) Hus spoke out against the excesses of *all* of the current Popes



The Renaissance

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Jan Hus was born in Bohemia, and excelled in both theological study and preaching
 - In 1409, new Pope Alexander V condemned Wycliffe's teachings—and excommunicated Hus
 - **In 1415, Hus was called to appear at the Council of Constance on charges of heresy**
 - In order to get him there, Zsigmond promised him safe conduct—nothing would happen to him, even if he were found guilty
 - So Hus dutifully came to plead his own case and he was summarily found guilty of heresy so he was burned at the stake
 - Zsigmond was furious that his promise had been utterly ignored
 - But Martin V argued that a promise to a heretic was not morally or legally binding



The Renaissance

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Jan Hus was born in Bohemia, and excelled in both theological study and preaching
 - In 1409, new Pope Alexander V condemned Wycliffe's teachings—and excommunicated Hus
 - In 1415, Hus was called to appear at the Council of Constance on charges of heresy
 - **The Hussites all retreated to Bohemia, where Wenceslaus gave them sanctuary**
 - But when he died in 1419, all bets were off
 - Zsigmond became the new King of Bohemia so when Martin V called for a crusade against the Hussites, against his own conscience, Zsigmond was forced to hunt them down and kill them all



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Two details made Zsigmond's Crusade difficult
 - 1) The Ottoman Turks invaded Hungary from the East, forcing Zsigmond to focus many of his forces there
 - 2) The Hussites were really, really good fighters
 - By this time, there were really two different branches of the Hussites
 - One was the Utraquists, who defined themselves theologically (their name derived from the Latin “*sub utraque specie*,” meaning “in both kinds,” since they argued that Christians should partake of both the bread *and* the wine in Communion)
(NOTE: At that time, the Church said that only *priests* were holy enough to partake of the “blood of Christ”)
(NOTE²: Up until Vatican II, that was *still* the practice in the Catholic Church... and many dioceses still practice the Eucharist that way)



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Two details made Zsigmond's Crusade difficult
 - 1) The Ottoman Turks invaded Hungary from the East, forcing Zsigmond to focus many of his forces there
 - 2) The Hussites were really, really good fighters
 - By this time, there were really two different branches of the Hussites
 - One was the Utraquists, who defined themselves theologically
 - The other branch was the Taborites, who defined themselves by their militancy
 - Using the wealth of Tábor's gold mines, they conquered much of Bohemia and Moravia, much to Zsigmond's dismay
 - In all, the Church brought three crusades against the Hussites... and lost them all



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Two details made Zsigmond's Crusade difficult
 - 1) The Ottoman Turks invaded Hungary from the East, forcing Zsigmond to focus many of his forces there
 - 2) The Hussites were really, really good fighters
 - By this time, there were really two different branches of the Hussites
 - By 1457, the Hussites had reformed themselves, turning toward pacifism
 - They called themselves simply, The Unity of the Brethren (AKA “Moravian Christians”)
 - The later emphasis of the Moravians on Pietism formed part of the foundation for what is now called the Evangelical Covenant Church...



The Renaissance

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Two details made Zsigmond's Crusade difficult
 - 1) The Ottoman Turks invaded Hungary from the East, forcing Zsigmond to focus many of his forces there
 - 2) The Hussites were really, really good fighters
 - By this time, there were really two different branches of the Hussites
 - By 1457, the Hussites had reformed themselves, turning toward pacifism
 - By the turn of the century, there were 100,000 Moravians worshipping in 400 churches
 - They made up 90% of the population in Czech countries
 - Nonetheless, the Catholic Church continued to persecute them for centuries



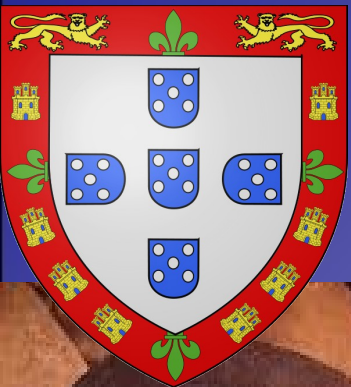
The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - 1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism
 - **1414 The Council of Constance dealt with the Schism**
 - King Zsigmond was sick of all of this politicking, when there was so much evil abroad, and he called for a new Council to fix everything
 - **The Council argued that the college of cardinals was—technically—above even the Pope, since they were the ones who installed the Popes, and as a demonstration of this, they installed the new Pope Martin V—a powerful Roman noble, who had once been excommunicated by Gregory XII because he'd supported John XXIII**
 - One of Martin's first official acts was to issue a Papal bull condemning Jan Hus and all those who followed him and the teachings of the Lollards
 - In 1428, Martin even exhumed the body of John Wycliffe and had it burned at the stake as well
 - In 1431, Martin convened a new Council where the cardinals were forced to concede that the Pope was indeed supreme over all the world, the unquestioned sovereign of the Church



The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**
 - 1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible
 - 1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism
 - 1414 The Council of Constance dealt with the Schism
 - **1415 Two rulers fought crucial battles abroad**
 - Portuguese Duke Henrique de Avis seized the coastal city of Ceuta in North Africa, beginning 500 years of Portuguese imperial expansion and instituting 500 years of race-based slavery



The Renaissance

- **The Church decided Councils fix everything**

1408 The Council of Oxford banned the Bible

1409 The Council of Pisa dealt with the Schism

1414 The Council of Constance dealt with the Schism

- **1415 Two rulers fought crucial battles abroad**

- Portuguese Duke Henrique de Avis seized the coastal city of Ceuta in North Africa, beginning 500 years of Portuguese imperial expansion and instituting 500 years of race-based slavery

- **English King Henry V fought a significant battle in a muddy field outside of Agincourt, in France...**

