



Catholic Church History

Week Two

St. John XXIII Faith Alive

600's – 1400's

1. The Story Overview:

The Catholic Church becomes the defender of the West and even the East. Western monasticism provides a key response to the increasing worldly entanglement of the Church. In time the five major centers will be reduced to just one, Rome.

2. The Rise of Islam:

In the year 610, the last Prophet Muhammad and Islam will begin to fill the void of power and conquest across the Middle East and Northern Africa. Some of the spread is by military campaign, some is not. Islam will offer great advances too. The West will be asked to come to the defence of the East.

3. Monastic Life & Religious Orders:

St. Benedict will create his "Rule" and transform the monastery system in the West. These communities will be very important through out church history. Later, Religious Orders will take the spiritual mission of the Gospels outside the monastery and into the world.

4. The Great Schism 1054:

Tension between the East and the West was a long time issue, even before the split in the Roman Empire. With significant cultural and linguistic difference the problem came to head after the one center of Rome becomes the only major center. They have always had a close relationship. Several times reunification was close. Some theological differences do exist.

5. The Crusades:

Attempts to defend the people, cities and holy sites of East especially Jerusalem, as they face the threat of Islam. They include many campaigns over 250 years.

6. The Spanish Inquisition:

Beginning in the 1200's across Europe the inquisition system provided the highest standards of legal procedures to question involving theological issues. In Spain in the 1490's it will be used cruelly under the guidance of the King and Queen. This practice was condemned by the Pope right away. The myth of dungeons, torture and burning at the stake is mostly a product of later Protestant Reformers attacking Catholic Spain.

