



Catholic Church History

Week Four

St. John XXIII Faith Alive

The American Catholic Church

1. Early Catholic Influences:

In the 1400, 1500, 1600's missionaries, explorers and traders from France and Spain have an early impact on Catholic America. The French (Jesuits) have Quebec as their center and "New France" will stretch from Canada to New Orleans. The Spanish (Franciscans) centered in Mexico City will influence from California across the southwest to Texas.

2. The Thirteen Colonies:

Cecil Calvert (Lord Baltimore), will establish a very small catholic presence in Maryland. The Carroll family will be very important. John Carroll will be the first Bishop in America. The Diocese of Baltimore is the first diocese in the U.S.

3. The Immigrant Waves:

Between 1880 and 1920 millions of immigrants will flood into the U.S., many are catholic. German, Irish, Italian and Poles will change this protestant country. They will want to hold on to their culture, language, religion and customs. They are poor and working dangerous jobs in horrible conditions. They are not welcome!

4. Catholic Florida:

First the Spanish control of Florida will allow some small in roads for the faith in the St. Augustine area. They have little lasting success. When the English take control of Florida the Catholics are suppressed. In the 1870's Bishop Augustin Verot will be the first bishop and some Catholic growth will come. It won't be until the older immigrant waves in the north start to retire in Florida will we see steady growth across Florida.

5. Saints of America:

A quick look at the life and impact of several key figures in the American Catholic Church. Like: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Katharine Drexel, St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, St. John Neumann, Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton.

6. What about the American Catholic Church today?

A brief look at current trends and issues in the Catholic Church in America.

