

FAITH ALIVE:
ADULT EDUCATION SERIES
CATHOLIC CHURCH HISTORY

St. John XXIII Catholic Church

Four Weeks of Fun



- Week 1: The First 600 years
- Week 2: 600's to 1400's
- Week 3: 1500's to 2000
- Week 4: History of the Catholic Church in America!
(including Florida's Catholic History)

Format



- 1. Opening Prayer
- 2. General Presentation
- 3. Table Discussion
- 4. Open questions for the floor
- 5. Closing Prayer

The Goals for our time together!



1. History Keys in Context
2. Grow to love the Catholic Church

When was the word "Catholic" first used to describe the Christians?

Clarify Two Terms

Catholic:

“Universal” or open to all

Greek “Concerning the whole” katho-likos

Latin “catholicus”

Common Usage: Those in union with the pope in Rome.

Clarify Two Terms

Church:

- “Liturgical Assembly” 1Cor./ The people!
- The particular church, diocese, building
- Universal community of believers/ NT
- CCC. People of God/ Body of Christ
- Souls in Heaven, Purgatory on Earth
(militant, suffering, triumphant)

All those in communion with Rome:

Diocesan, Religious Orders, other Rites and communities

Week 1: The first 600 years!



Timeline and overview
of the first 600 years
of Catholic Church
history.

Handout #1:

Big Picture Story



1. Story Overview
2. Acts of the Apostles
3. Major Centers of Christianity
4. Early Church Councils
5. Heresy Questions and Problems
6. Turmoil and World Change

1. Story Overview



- A. The Church is instituted by Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, spread by the Apostles and Paul.
- B. The struggle to survive and grow as the Church moves from Persecution to Toleration.
- C. Answering fundamental questions of Faith.
What do we believe? How do we handle problems? Who are we?

Important Dates/People



- 30 Pentecost birth of the Church
- 60's Peter & Paul die in Rome
- 60-90 Gospels written
- 100-200 NT books form
- 285 Roman empire splits
- 300's Edict of Milan, St. Augustine, St. Ambrose
- 400's Vulgate/St. Jerome, St. Patrick, NT Canon
- 500's St. Benedict, Monastic Life
- 600's Mohammed/ Islam

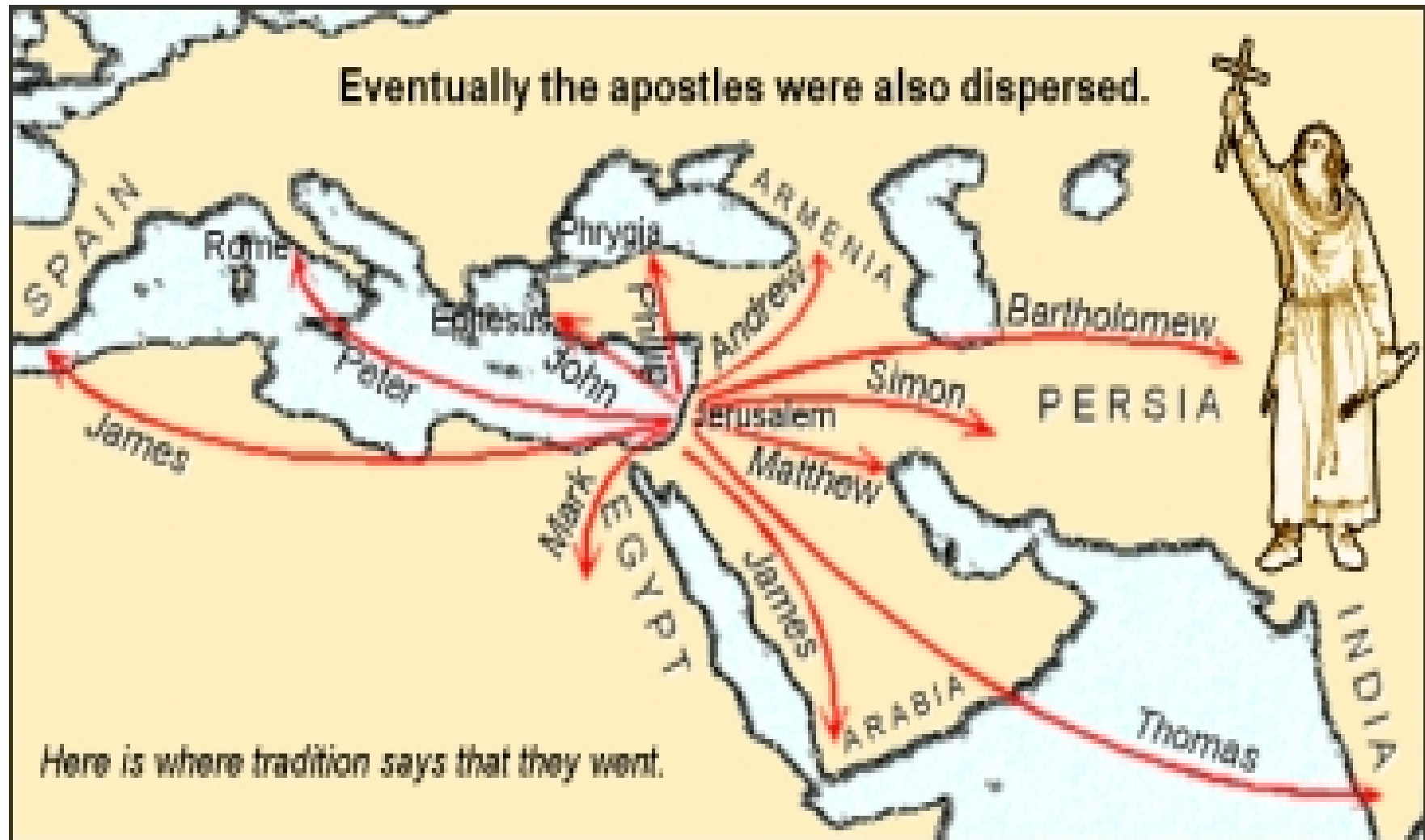
2. Acts of the Apostles

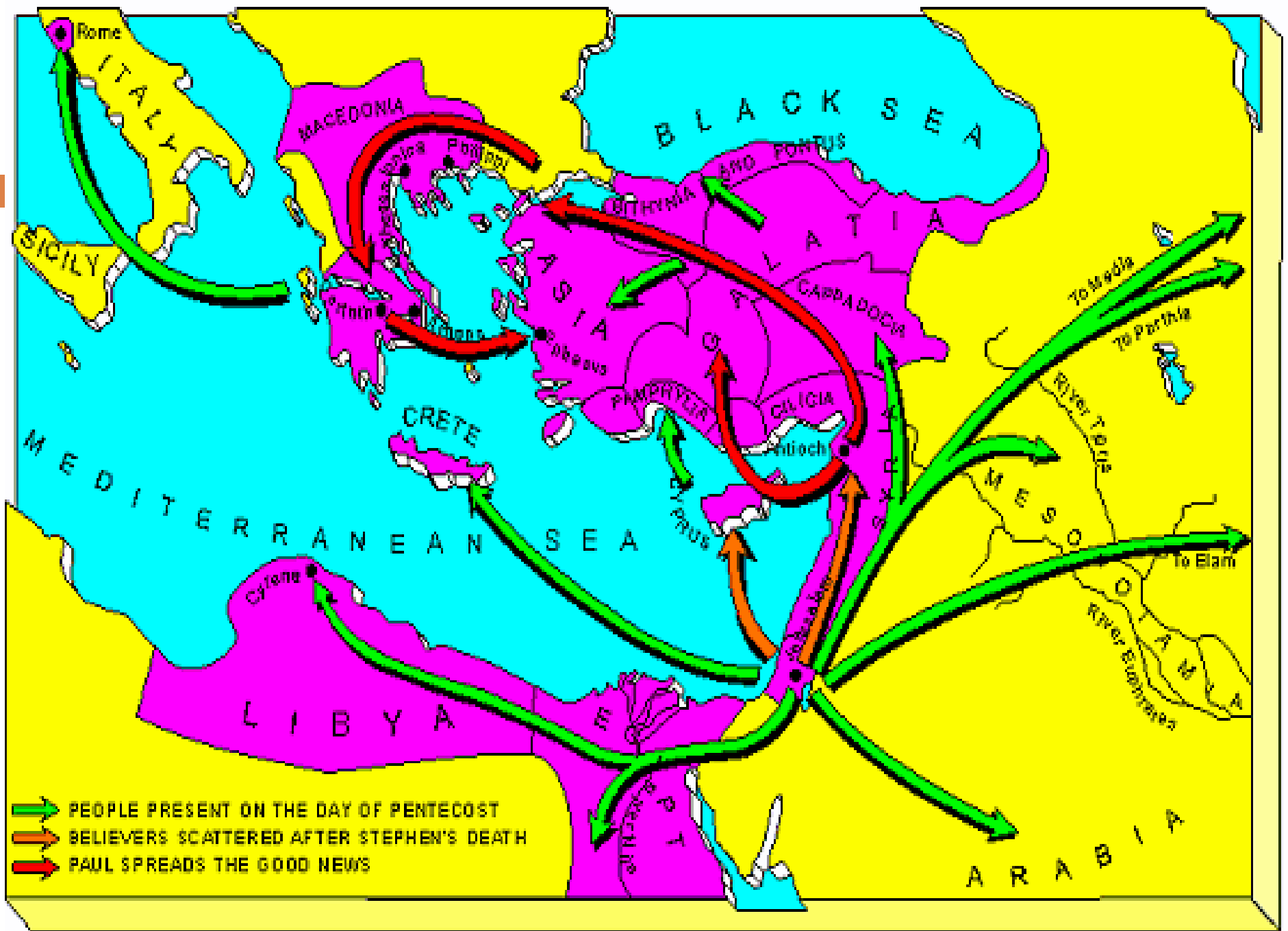


- Jesus/Jerusalem/wait for the Holy Spirit/ Ascension
- Peter leads/Pentecost/"fellow Israelites"/Broke bread
- Temple/Healing/Living in common/Sanhedrin reprimand
- Stephen/Persecution by Saul/Philip, Peter, John Samaria
- Saul's conversion/Peter-Jesus for all/Antioch/Christians
- Paul's journeys/ Council of Jerusalem/Paul's trial/Rome

Read the Acts of the Apostles again!

The Apostles Spread the Good News





3. Major Centers of Christianity

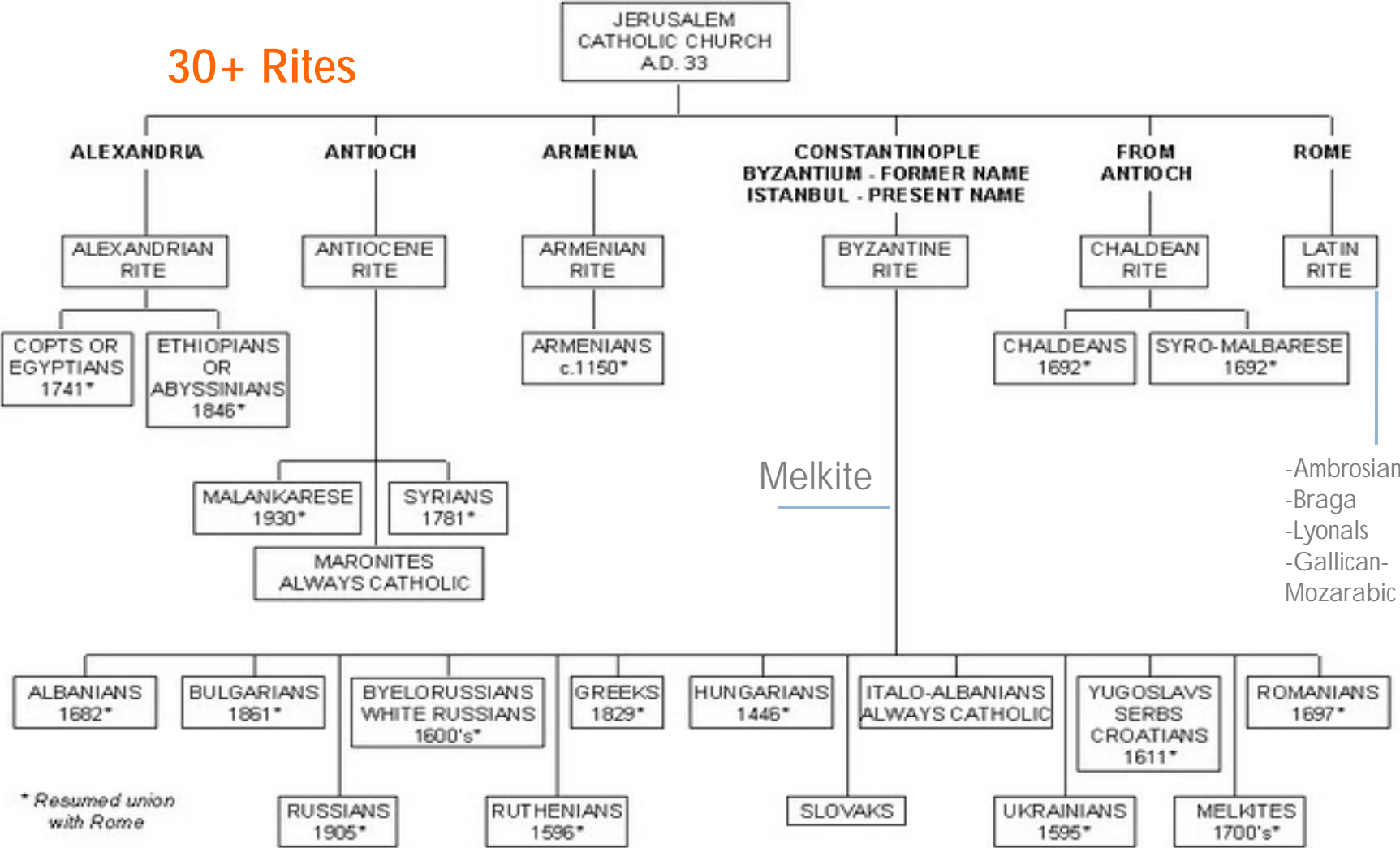


- ANTIOCH (Syria)
- JERUSALEM (Israel)
- ALEXANDRIA (Egypt)
- CONSTANTINOPLE (Turkey)
- ROME (Italy)

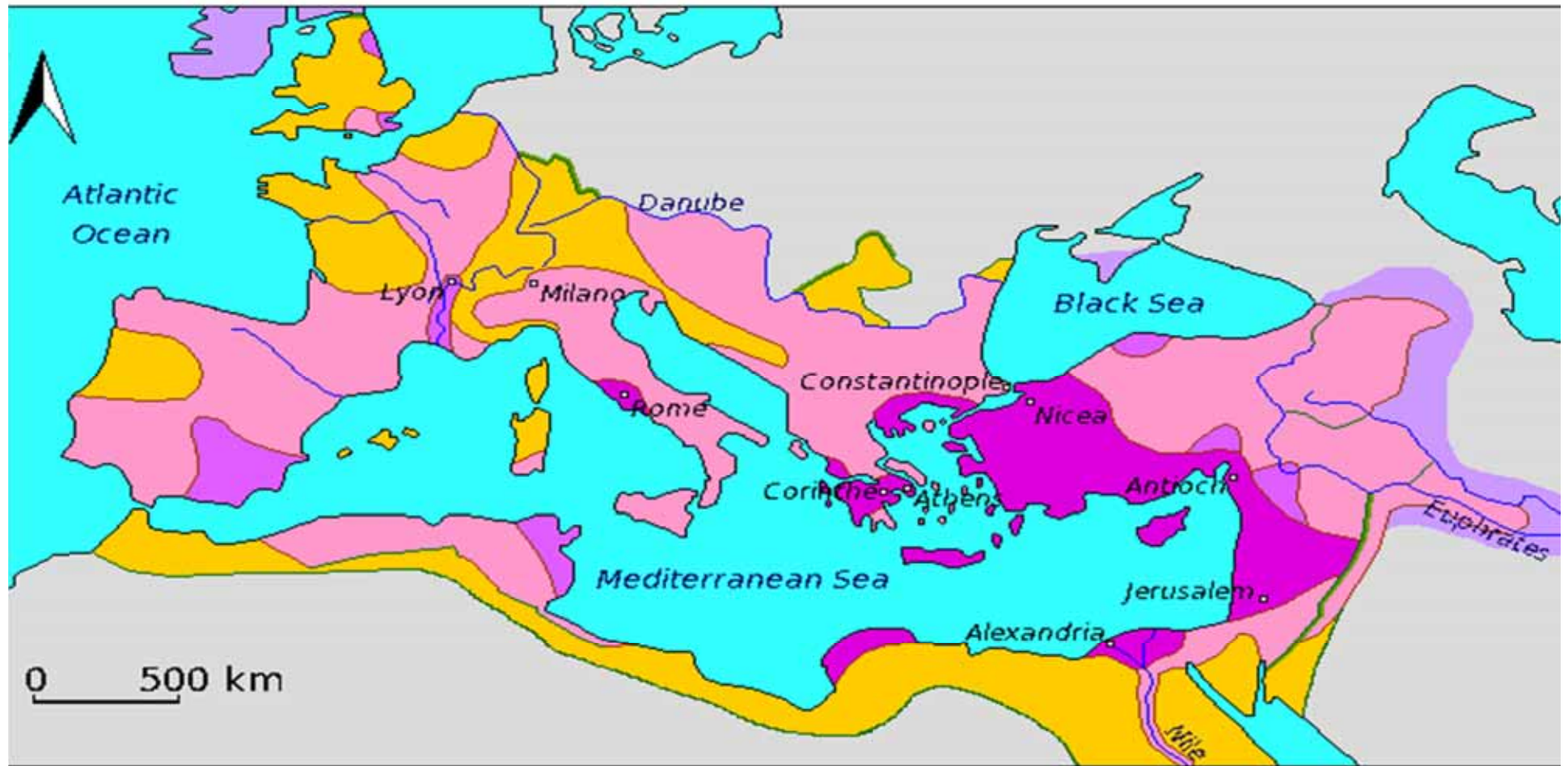
600 years of our history! Patriarchs

What is a Catholic "Rite"?

30+ Rites



The expansion of Christianity in the first centuries



1st century
2nd century

3rd century
Roman Empire (Christian since 313)
6th century

4. Early Church Councils

- JERUSALEM (48) Converts and Jewish laws
- ROME (230) Jesus' Divinity
- NICEA (325) Creed and beliefs
- HIPPO (393) Bible Canon
- CARTHAGE (397-419) Bible Canon
- EPHESUS (431) Jesus' humanity/ Nestorians
- CHALCEDON (451) Two natures of Christ

5. Heresy & Problems

- 100's Arian: Jesus not human
- 200's Origen: Jesus not divine
- 300's Modalism:

Father, then Son, then Holy Spirit

Many, many others.....

6. Turmoil & World Change



The Roman Empire after many centuries of rule is facing collapse!!!

313: Constantine/Christianity

395: East & West Split of Empire

476: The West Falls!

640's: The East transitions from Empire

1054 Great Schism

No Roman Rule means:



- No Military: Invasions will abound
- No Water & Sanitation/ Plaques grow
- No Law & Courts/ chaos
- No Civil or Social Services/ roads
- No Commerce, Trade or Monetary systems

What if that happened in the U.S.?
Who will fill the great void?

Table Discussions



What questions do you have?

Anything surprise you in the presentation?

What do you think a Protestant church would say about the first 600years?

Why would many famous converts say study of the early church made them reconsider the Catholic Church?

Preview of Next Week:



600's to 1400's

- The Rise of Islam
- Western Monasticism
- Religious Orders
- The Great Schism/ "Orthodox"
- The Crusades