

CATHOLIC CHURCH HISTORY: Timeline, Part 2 of 2

© 2009, Brad Noel

- 1517 Martin Luther, an Augustinian friar, posts his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenburg – symbolic start of the Protestant Reformation
- 1521 Ferdinand Magellan baptizes first converts in what is now the Philippines, the first Christian nation in Southeast Asia
- 1522 Franciscan missionaries arrive in modern-day Mexico to minister to the native Indians
- 1534 Ignatius of Loyola founds the Society of Jesus (aka Jesuits)
- Act of Supremacy is passed in England, declaring the king of England to be the head of the English church; start of the Church of England
- 1536—1540 King Henry VIII dissolves all monasteries in England, Wales and Ireland and confiscates all Catholic Church properties
- 1531 Our Lady of Guadalupe apparition in present-day Mexico
- 1543—1552 Francis Xavier, a Jesuit, leads missionary activities in parts of India, Japan and China
- 1545—1563 Council of Trent encapsulates the Catholic response to the Protestant Reformation
- 1552 Chaldean Church re-enters communion with Rome
- 1565 Mass is celebrated in St. Augustine, Florida; this is the first Christian service in a permanent settlement in what would become the continental U.S.
- 1571 Christian fleet defeats Turkish Muslim fleet in the naval Battle of Lepanto; prayers to Our Lady are widely credited with the victory and Pope Pius V institutes the feast of Our Lady of Victory (now Our Lady of the Rosary)
- 1582 Pope Gregory XIII introduces new, “Gregorian” calendar; Eastern churches continue to use older, “Julian” calendar
- 1595 Ruthenian Church re-enters communion with Rome
- 1597 Shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu begins a severe persecution of Catholics in Japan
- 1626 New Basilica of St. Peter in Rome is dedicated
- 1629 George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, requests charter for new Province of Maryland to create a haven for English Catholics in the British colonies
- 1632 Galileo publishes his book defending a heliocentric solar system; he is brought before the Inquisition a year later

- 1648 Treaty of Westphalia officially ends the European Wars of Religion
- 1698 Catholic missionaries begin working among Indian tribes such as the Natchez and the Tunica in present-day Mississippi
- 1714 French Fort Rosalie, precursor to the city of Natchez, is established
- 1721 Kangxi Emperor bans Christian missionaries from China
- 1769 Junipero Serra, a Franciscan, establishes the first of many Catholic missions in California
- 1789 John Carroll becomes the Bishop of Baltimore – the first Catholic bishop in the United States
- 1793—1802 The Catholic Church outlawed by the French revolutionary government
- 1837 Catholic Diocese of Natchez erected for the entire State of Mississippi
- 1840 John Chanche becomes the first Bishop of Natchez
- 1850 Catholic hierarchy is officially re-established in England, led by the Archdiocese of Westminster
- 1843 New cathedral of Natchez, St. Mary's, is dedicated
- 1854 Immaculate Conception becomes a dogma of the Faith
- 1858 Apparitions of Our Lady at Lourdes, France
- 1870 First Vatican Council clarifies the dogma of papal infallibility
- 1878 Yellow Fever outbreak in Mississippi kills six diocesan priests and many religious, including the "Yellow Fever Martyrs" in Holly Springs
- 1917 Apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal
- 1926—1940 Widespread persecutions of Catholics in Mexico during the Cristero War
- 1929 Lateran Treaty is signed, creating the current Vatican City-State
- 1931—1936 Persecutions of the Catholic Church in Spain during the "Red Terror"
- WWII Monasteries, convents and even the Vatican City-State are used to hide Jews and others targeted by the Nazis for extermination. St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) are among many priests, nuns and laypeople killed in Nazi concentration camps for not being compliant with Nazism.

- 1943 St. John the Evangelist parish is formed to meet the growing needs of Catholic students at the University of Mississippi and Catholic residents in Oxford; Father Cletus Mannon is first pastor
- 1948 Bishop Richard Gerow moves from Natchez to Jackson
- 1950 Assumption of Mary defined as dogma of the Faith
- 1956 Diocese of Natchez is renamed Diocese of Natchez-Jackson
- 1962—1965 Second Vatican Council is held in Rome
- 1965 Mutual excommunications of Catholic and Orthodox are lifted in historic meeting between Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople
- 1970 New revision of the Roman Missal is promulgated, newer form of Mass is introduced
- 1977 Diocese of Natchez-Jackson becomes Diocese of Jackson; Diocese of Biloxi is created
- 1978 Karol Cardinal Wojtyla becomes Pope John Paul II
- 2005 Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger is elected as the 265th pope, takes the name Benedict XVI
- 2007 Pope Benedict XVI issues *Summorum Pontificum*, liberating the older form of the Mass and encouraging its use