

THEOLOGY III

Church History

Textbooks:

The History of the Church: A Complete Course (The Didache Series)

Prerequisites:

Completion of Theology II

Course Description:

This course will cover the history of the Catholic Church, beginning with its founding by Jesus Christ and the earliest days of the Apostolic Church to the present day. We will look at the history of the Church within the context of the social, political, theological and spiritual influences and developments of each major time period in history. Also, during their second semester juniors will begin the Christian Service Program which seeks to continue to instill in them a love for one's neighbor that is vivified with the love of Jesus Christ. As Christ said, "to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me" (Mt 25:40).

Course Goals:

1. Help students to gain an in-depth understanding of the history of the Catholic Church.
2. Help students understand Church History as an extension of Jesus' ministry and the way in which God's revelation is presented to the world.
3. Enable students to reflect on the history of the Church in order to shed light on contemporary church structure and doctrine.
4. Enable students to reflect on the Church's development in order to gain a better understanding of themselves and what it means to be Catholic.
5. To serve Christ specifically through the Christian Service Program.

Course Objectives:

The students will be able to:

1. Trace the Church's history from the time of Jesus to the present, with the important ideas and events presented in a logical sequence.
2. Show how social and political historical events have affected the development of the Church.

3. Understand the mission of the Church as an extension of Jesus' ministry on Earth and the tensions that sometimes arise between that mission and the physical institution of the Church.
4. Recognize some of the great people who have played a part in the Church's development.
5. Explain the causes of various heresies and the resolutions of particular Councils.
6. Recognize the Church's call to community in the early history, as well as today.
7. Understand the need for and the structure of the hierarchy of the Church.
8. Recognize the religious and political issues presented by the Protestant and Catholic Reformations.
9. Identify and understand the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.
10. Understand the Church's roles of leadership and ministry and the notion of ongoing religious formation.

Evaluation:

Homework assignments, quizzes, tests, and a Church history project (on a saint or an event)

Supplemental Materials:

Into Great Silence, Becket, The Mission, and Romero

Course Sequence:

- I. The Founding of the Church
- II. The Early Christians
- III. Persecutions
- IV. Church Fathers and Heresies
- V. Light in the Dark Ages
- VI. The Rise of Islam
- VII. Conversion of the Germanic Tribes
- VIII. Iconoclasm
- IX. Carolingian Renaissance

- X. The Great Schism
- XI. Corruption and Reform
- XII. The Crusade and Inquisition
- XIII. The High Middle Ages
- XIV. Plague, War, and Schism
- XV. Renaissance and Reformation
- XVI. The First Vatican Council
- XVII. The Catholic Church in America
- XVIII. The Second Vatican Council to Present