

EPIC WK 17 Revolutions and Modernism (1700 - 1913 AD)

"Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8

REVIEW: Church has *authentically* reformed herself in response to the Protestant Revolution; Europe/Western Civilization move away from Christian roots; time of *intellectual confusion*, heresy of *Modernism*, people moving away from farms and into urban area (cities, factories), period of *enlightenment* (a way of thinking *differently*; from age of *faith* to age of *reason* (philosophy as way to help understand *reality*), mostly centered in France (from latter part of 16th century to 18th century); strong leadership in papacy

Theology: 1st and greatest science; *Enlightenment* wants to explain philosophical questions with *mathematical sense*

Philosophy: 2nd highest science; based on *how we see and understand the world*; world tells us certain *metaphysical¹* things; how to *understand* and *explain* reality; about *truth*

St Thomas Aquinas (scholastic philosophy); Q: Does God exist? A: we can *see* the world, the order, the harmony, the design in *natural* world; *someone* or *something* created this (He calls this *God*); not random

Modern Philosophy: not centered on *reality* but *asinine* questions; Q: Is the sky blue? How do we know that we know anything?

Rene` Descartes: Father of modern philosophy (divorced from reality, embraced *skepticism*); *a lot of doubt about everything and everything was in doubt; if doubt everything then nothing is known to be for certain, only our thinking matters.*

Loss of authentic truth and faith: we cannot know anything; *skepticism* reigns supreme;

Pope John Paul writes a book, *Memory and Identity* (his idea of period of *Enlightenment* and effects on Church/Western society),

The entire drama of salvation history had disappeared as far as the Enlightenment was concerned.

Man remained alone, alone as creator of his own history and his own civilization, alone as one who decides what is good and what is bad, as one who would exist and operate even if there were no God. Man moves from a God-centered view of society to a man centered view of society; rejection of Christ and the Church

Voltaire (18th Century)¹: used *satire* and ridiculed Catholic Church; educated by Jesuits; wanted Jesuits suppressed, Reason 1: had extensive educational system (he/others needed *control* of educational system to promote their ideas); *take away Jesuits, Church gone in 20 yrs.* (1773), 2. Obstacles to the central authority of the state; government needed *loyalty* to them not to Holy Father via Jesuits; outlawed in France, Spain – wanted banned throughout Church

Political tactics: Pressure Holy Father to suppress entire order; Pope Clement XIV suppresses Jesuits (Pope Pius VII established order in 1814)

French Revolution: Climax of Enlightenment period; is what the *Enlightened thinkers* wanted; complete separation of Church and *society*

King Louie XVI: good Catholic, good king, good heart, weak/indecisive leader; marries Catholic Marie Antoinette; clashes with powerful/wealthy nobility; France supported newly formed USA battle with Britain; caused financial crisis in France

French Revolution (July 14, 1789): fueled by financial crisis of USA war of independence; people stormed the Bastille in Paris - French prison allegedly holding many prisoners (only 5); Royal family held in captivity there until 1792; during that time, revolutionaries begin to dismantle faith

Constitution of the Clergy: Law passed that government would run the Church, bishops elected by people, clergy had to pledge obedience/fidelity to government (Similar to English King Henry VIII oath; all 299 of 300 bishops supported Henry); in France, only six of 134 bishops took oath, 45% of priest took oath

Reign of Terror: In one day in Sept 1792, guillotine used to murder over 200 priests and religious (over 1400 total murdered) for refusing to take oath (over 20,000 by 1794). July 1793, King Louis XVI/Queen

Marie Antoinette executed; revolutionaries attacking/persecuting the Church and monarchs; change calendar to 10 days per week/names of days; churches into *Temples of Reason*; initiates *Cult of Reason*, *Cult of Nature*, *Cult of State* (later affects 20th century history of Europe); ends in 1792 with witness of 16 Carmelite nuns who were murdered

Napoleon Bonaparte (1796): Plan is to try to control Church in France but recognizes people need faith/the Church; conquers Rome, takes Pope Pius VI prisoner (died in French captivity in 1799); signs a concordance with Church in 1801 (Church a *privilege* to be in France but not *only faith*); pays *recompense* that was confiscated; annexes Papal states, Pope Pius VI excommunicates Napoleon; Napoleon exiles Pope; Napoleon loses power (1814), returns in Battle of Waterloo (1815), is defeated exiled to island of St Helena, dies in 1821.

MODERNISM: New kind of heresy, does not *attack* Church but attacks *meaning of faith* (how the words should be understood); scriptural critics *reinterpret* Scripture, not that it happened or not but the *meaning* of what really happened (ex: Feeding of 5,000: it happened BUT it was to show the *power of persuasion* to get people to share food with each other); questions *fundamental meaning of our faith*

Characteristics of Modernist attack: Atheistic, attacks God; seeks to destroy the Church and *create a civilization* to their views-Church should only teach in *spiritual* sphere but have no bearing on *moral order of public life*

Naked Public Square: Modernist belief that God should be completely out of the public mind; have no place in public realm

Fruits of Modernism: 1. Loss of self-restraint/self-control; individual decides what is good or bad; no God, go *objective truth* to determine good or evil, 2. Loss of *authentic reason* (ability to reason through **argumentation**²). **Rhetoric:** ability to present a *logical* argument to convince others of your belief. These no longer taught because *Enlightenment* is centered on *emotion* (I *think* it is true, I *feel* it is true, therefore *it is true*); difficult to argue with *emotions*, 3. Sense of *moral relativism*: Morality is whatever individual creates, no God-given objective morality (I *think* my idea of evil is different from what you *think* is evil, therefore do whatever you want; does not only create *skeptical* society but society with no firm *foundation* – always at risk and danger of collapsing in on itself with chaos.

If we embrace more *relativism* and some of the *fruits of modernism*, if man can decide by himself without God what is good and what is bad, he can also determine that a *group of people* is to be annihilated. (Pope John Paul II)

Pope Pius IX (1846): was pope *32 years*; Pope during very troubled 18th century; provided *firm foundation* during this time – riots in Rome (due to riots, Pope spent 2 yrs. in Naples; last Pope in possession of Papal States (created when Frank King Pepin donated some of his conquered lands to Holy Father); considered himself a *prisoner* in Vatican (dies 8 yrs. later); many successors followed his example in protest of loss of Papal States; great devotion of Immaculate Conception of Mary-proclaimed a **dogma**³ in 1854,

The most blessed Virgin Mary was from the first moment of her conception by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, can by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race was preserved (immune) from all stains of original sin.

Our Lady of Lourdes (France 1852, Blessed Mother to St Bernadette):

I am the Immaculate Conception.

Syllabus of Errors: Issued by Pope Pius IX (1864); condemns certain propositions, teachings, beliefs widespread in European society. 1. *We know that the fullness of God's reality is contained within the Catholic Church, that Jesus Christ came fullness of His power as authority and His teachings are within the Catholic Church.* 2. Condemns communism, 3. Call the 20th Ecumenical council., the first Vatican Council.

Vatican Council 1 (1869-1870): Pope Pius IX: 3 Goals for Council

1. Reinstate the faith in areas which had been attacked (Areas affected by French Revolution, Enlightenment principles and Modernism, 2. Discuss relationship between Church and State; how does the Church *relate* new/varied forms of government, 3. Need to issue specifically a direct doctrinal

statement on the Church, *What do we mean when we say The Catholic Church? What do we believe about the Catholic Church?* (First time had American bishops in attendance, 40 attended)

MAJOR DOCUMENTS of Vatican I: 1. *Dei Filius*: Addresses concerns of faith, reason and revelation, 1. There is a *God-giving* objective truth; Faith and reason are complementary because their *sole source* is God, 2. *Pastor Aeternus*: Considers *role* of the Pope - his **Charism⁵** of *Infallibility* (without error; *ex cathedra* – from chair of Peter), gift of Holy Spirit (provides LIST of ways Holy Father exercises this Charism:

- Speaks not as *Bishop of Rome* but as *universal shepherd* of entire Catholic Church
- Teaching must be a matter of faith and morals
- Must *specifically* state that the *teaching* is binding on the entire Catholic Church (all members) and is declared as irrevocable and infallible teaching

Council *suspended* prematurely due to Franco-Prussian war (1870); Pope lost Papal States; French troops guard the Pope (Council not *officially* ended until Vatican Council II (1960)

Kulturkampf (Germany)⁶: Collection of over 300 principalities/regions; under Otto von Bismarck becomes unified country, wants to unify politically and culturally; attempts to *force* Catholic states to become more *protestant*; (1872- over 15 yr. period) expels all Catholic religious orders; imprisons Catholic bishops and priests, churches/schools seized; monasteries/convents forcibly closed; ends when Bismarck/Pope Leo XVIII agree to allow, 1. State approval of clerical appointments, 2. State law to reign supreme through Germany, 3. Public education controlled by the state, 4. Catholics allowed public exercise of faith without fear of governmental control or intrusion.

Concordance of Agreements: First Beginnings of Church trying to come to agreement with secular rulers; Church is trying to safeguard the rights of the Church, the right of the Church to exist, the rights of Catholics to freely practice their faith.

Pope Leo XIII⁸ (1878-1903): Self-proclaimed pacifist; wanted to reach out to modern world and prevent Church from becoming *insular* (focused inward); Church must maintain focus of *engaging the modern world*, bring Gospel to modern world; adjust to modern *political reality*; wrote many **encyclicals⁷**

Pope Leo XIII Encyclical: Non maius (June 15, 1891) *Rerum Novarum* came at a time when many new social, political and economic movements seemed opposed to the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church. The encyclical outlined the principles of the rights of workers, employers, and the state. It promoted the dignity of the worker and the right to organize into unions; wrote/gave the Church great prayer of St. Michael, to pray against the satanic activities that will happen in the next century) when we're in our next time period, a *World at War*.

Pope Pius X: Great/holy man; recodified Code of Canon Law; great supporter of priest/pastors; emphasized the Eucharist allowing children at age of reason to receive; issued encyclical *Pascendi Dominici gregis* (1910) ¹⁰, calls Modernism *heresy*

¹ **Voltaire:** (See Handout 48)

² **Argumentation:** The action or process of reasoning systematically in support of an idea, action, or theory.

³ **Dogma vs Doctrine:** Doctrine is all Church teaching in matters of faith and morals. Dogma is more narrowly defined as that part of doctrine which has been divinely revealed and which the Church has formally defined and declared to be believed as revealed. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, *The Church's magisterium exercises the authority it holds from Christ to the fullest extent when it defines dogmas, that is, when it proposes, in a form obliging the Christian people to an irrevocable adherence of faith, truths contained in divine Revelation or also when it proposes, in a definitive way, truths having a necessary connection with these. (CCC 88) Concerning the Church's teaching that Mary is the Mediatrix of All Graces, while this doctrine has been divinely revealed, it has not yet been—although could be—elevated to dogma.* In Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma, Dr. Ludwig Ott explains, *"The doctrine of Mary's Universal Mediation of Grace based on her co-operation in the Incarnation is so definitely manifest in the sources of the faith, that nothing stands in the way of a dogmatic definition"* (215).

⁴ **Vatican I Documents:** 1. *Dei Filius* (24 April 1870) 2. Dogmatic Constitution *Pastor Aeternus* (18 July 1870) https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/i-vatican-council/index.htm

⁵ **Charisms:** One of the ways Holy Spirit is outpoured upon the Church is through Charisms. When a person has a charism, supernatural grace is given to lead others to experience the healing power of Jesus' love. The charisms

are associated with specific activities of service that build up the Body of Christ. By God pouring out excessive grace on each member in service to others, amazing things happen with each member playing a key role (1Corinthians 12).

⁶ <https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/kulturkampf>+ (See HO 46)

⁷ **Encyclical**: a papal letter sent to all bishops of the Roman Catholic Church.

⁸ **Pope Leo XIII**: Scholar/bishop, founder of many hospitals, orphanages and other social institutions, 'the workers' Pope"; self-professed pacifist; worked to bring Church into modern world; promoted disarmament, promoted the Church's role as moral leader in modern society; **declared democracy was compatible with Catholic teaching, supported people's right to self-determination, and condemned slavery and racism**; expanded role of nuncios (a papal ambassador to a foreign court or government) giving them precedence over local bishops; exercised tight control over bishops' conferences; seen as **chief teacher of Catholicism**, publishing eighty-six encyclicals (11 on Mary/Rosary (know as Rosary Pope), most famous encyclicals, Rerum Novarum in 1891, examined the evils of capitalism. insisted upon a just wage, dignity for workers and families and workers' rights to organize. **Rerum Novarum** was considered to be best Catholic social teaching of its time, a serious effort to articulate a Christian ethic for an industrial era, (becoming and remaining) the starting point for all Catholic social teaching. Leo renewed Catholic theology with study of St. Thomas Aquinas; insisted no conflict between true science/true religion; encouraged astronomy, natural sciences, Biblical research; opened Vatican archives for research for serious scholars; extended invitation to orthodox Christians/Protestants to reunite with Rome; suppressed attempts in America by liberal US Catholics to accommodate their *culturally democratic heritage* with their Church's authoritarianism (1899). US attracted his attention and admiration and he confirmed the decrees of the **Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884⁹**; made Archbishop James Gibbons cardinal in 1886. The centrality of the papacy and renewed prestige were firmly in place by the time of Leo's death in 1903. He restored intellectual, spiritual, diplomatic and secular guidance to the papacy during a pontificate spanning twenty-five years. To his successor, St. Pius X (1903-1914) he left an institution that had endured revolutions, loss of temporal power and increased industrialization. The papacy was traditionally fearful of modernism and democracy and would continue to deal with these issues throughout the reign of the future pope. Leo XIII died in the summer of 1903. He was ninety-three years of age and was buried in the Vatican but transferred in 1923 to the basilica of St. John Lateran. Visions of Pope Pius XIII: (See HO 50)

⁹ **Third Plenary Council of Baltimore (1884)**: Bishops of the United States gathered in Baltimore and in an historic meeting took a number of significant steps. They agreed that every parish in America should try to build a parochial school within two years of the Plenary Council's closing. They asked the Holy See to approve a new Catholic university for America, and they approved a uniform, **English language catechism for the United States, the legendary Baltimore Catechism**. The Society of the Missionary Priests of St. Paul the Apostle was founded by Issac Hecker in 1858. Hecker and many of the early Paulists were converts to Catholicism. They were convinced of the essential harmony between the Catholic faith and American ideals and thus the potential for non-Catholic Americans to appreciate and ultimately embrace Catholicism. The Paulists had a strong influence on Archbishop John J. Keane and Archbishop John Ireland: Ireland would call Hecker, "the flower of American priesthood."

¹⁰ **Pascendi Dominici gregis** (English: *Feeding the Lord's Flock*) is a papal **encyclical letter**, subtitled "*On the Doctrines of the Modernists*", promulgated by **Pope Pius X** on 8 September 1907.