

EPIC WK 20 Threshold of Hope/Conclusion

Review: Eleven time periods to understand the great history of our Church. Last session we saw how two world wars were results of revolutions and *modernism*, fascism, communism and national socialism which brought horrific death and destruction. No change in Church teachings but emphasis on explaining/demonstrating validity of the Church's teachings to modern man and focus on the *great personal relationship* with Christ. We saw how helpful the documents of the Council of Trent brought renewal to the Church after Protestant Revolution and now the Church through the 2nd Vatican Council documents provided a blueprint and brought relevancy to the life of modern man in the 3rd millennium; we are at a Threshold of Hope

Ultra-Marine: Most expensive color used in Renaissance art; most often associated to Blessed Mother
Three Popes: 1. John Paul II (1963 – 78), 2. Pope John Paul I (1978), 3. St John Paul II (1978 – 2005)

Pope John Paul II, 1978-2005: first non-Italian (simple servant from devout Poland) pope in 465 yrs; his first words, *Be not afraid. Be not afraid* of modern world, to embrace a life from Jesus Christ, to be in love with your Church, to pass on the Gospel to the world, to the *light of the world...*; used these words wherever he traveled. Brings about collapse of Soviet Union; authentic witness of a Christian life; especially addresses youth, *be not afraid* to be different than your friends or be counterculture by embracing life of Christ and relationship with the Church. *Be not afraid* when forgiving man who almost killed him. He uses those words, *be not afraid* throughout his painful personal life, his studies, his ministry to youth and married couples. He desired to build two things into our society: 1. **Culture of Life**, 2. **Civilization of love**. Desired to bring society back to embracing the Gospel, to know our Christian roots especially Europe and Western world with four themes: 1. Evangelization (many writings and most traveled pope, loved around world); began World Youth Days, attended ten. **Four Themes of Pope John Paul II's papacy:** 1. Belief in the universal call to holiness, 2. Hope in the young, 3. Devotion to Mary Mother of God, 4. Diligent defense of dignity of human life from conception to natural death, all presented with humor, 'stage-presence' and a loveable nature. www.catholicnewsagency.com; Promulgated first *universal Catechism* of Catholic Church (1992) the original Council of Trent (1545 – 1563)), first in French, then Latin, then all languages (Baltimore Catechism was US, not universal); used decrees of 2nd Vatican Council to update *Canon Law*

Humanae Vitae: Focus on marriage and love (through series of Wed general audience (Known as *Theology of the Body*, 1979-1984)

Year of Jubilee (1997): Prepared the Church for the third millennium of Christian existence; Issued proclamation for year of great Jubilee by focusing on the Church on three persons of Holy Trinity; a year to focus on *Who is Jesus?* A year to focus on *Who is the Father?* A year to focus on Blessed Trinity, to have greater appreciation for work and activity of Holy Spirit in the Church and the world. Meets with people from all walks of life and cultures to encourage to embrace Christian life personally and out in the world. Travels all over the world.

International Theological Commission: Memory and Reconciliation: Investigate Church's faults of the past, ask for forgiveness (purification of memory) by recognizing human limitations/weaknesses of various generations that did not live up to vocation of intimately following Christ

document says the church requests pardon or the church's request for pardon, must not be understood
Novo Millenio, Apostolic Letter: How should the Church adopt/embrace words of Christ to go into the *deep* and evangelize/show people the *face of Christ* by how we live just like early Christians.; importance of having *relationship* with the Lord through sacraments and Mass

Writings of Pope Paul: prolific writer; 14 Major encyclicals on many different themes including *Splendor of Truth* (a foundation for moral theology), *Gospel of Life* (specifically morality of euthanasia and abortion, worth and dignity of every person, *Faith and Reason* (to help us understand how to live), Eucharist and the Church (intimate relationship with Jesus) www.cctwincities.org; wrote 45 Apostolic Letters (*Keeping the Lord's Day holy*), added *Luminous Mysteries* to Rosary; Crossing the Threshold of Hope (Interview with Pope John Paul II with *Vittorio Messori*

vatican.va/jubilee_2000/magazine/documents - Role of Suffering, universal call to holiness); canonized 482 saints, beatified over 1300 (Padre Pio, Sr Faustina, etc.)

Great Popes: 1. **Pope St Leo the Great (460-61)**; strong leader of Church and political leader; known for addressing Monophysitism (Christ has only one nature) and great defender of Rome against Attila the Hun and later other vandals, 2. **Pope St Gregory the Great (590-604)**; great charity to poor, found hospitals, wrote many pastoral and theological works; initiated great missionary efforts and policies (especially St Augustine of Canterbury) that did not seek to destroy but modify local pagan beliefs, 3. **St Nicolas I the Great (858-867)**, defended authority of papacy against Photius the Patriarch of Constantinople...**Pope Paul II (the Great)**, TBD?

Study Review: Church was persecuted, continues to be persecuted, governments wanted to control the Church over the years, continues today, tension between eastern and western halves of the Church even today left over from Great Schism of 1054, Church always focused on her missionary efforts throughout the world even today; Holy Spirit continues to animate the Church; Islam threatened Church in 7th century and continues to do so today by growing in numbers in Western civilization while declining geographically to one area in middle east

Message of Hope: Pope Benedict XVI, *Life is a voyage on a sea of history, often dark and stormy, a voyage in which we watch for the stars that will indicate the route. The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives, lives of hope and certainly Jesus Christ is the light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. To reach Him, we also need lights close by and people who shine in His light and so guide us along the way.*

CONCLUSION: Remember the story of our Church; take the story to your family and to your coworkers. Be the *people of light* by spreading the Gospel; live the *life of Christ* and *pray* the Lord may give you His understanding of your role in this story. What is your role in the salvific mission of our Church?

Alexandrian Rite (3)

Coptic Catholic Church
Eritrean Catholic Church
Ethiopian Catholic Church

Armenian Rite (1)

Armenian Catholic Church

East Syriac Rite (2)

Chaldean Catholic Church
Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

Byzantine Rite (14)

Albanian Greek Catholic Church
Belarusian Greek Catholic Church
Bulgarian Greek Catholic Church
Greek Catholic Church of Croatia/Serbia
Hungarian Greek Catholic Church
Italo-Albanian Catholic Church
Macedonian Greek Catholic Church
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
Romanian Greek Catholic Church
Russian Greek Catholic Church
Russian Greek Catholic Church
Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church
Slovak Greek Catholic Church
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Latin Rite (1)

Latin Church

West Syriac Rite (3)

Maronite Church
Syriac Catholic Church
Syro-Malankara Catholic Church

The Church: The Family of God. Here is a link to Ascension Press' series by Nicholas LaBanca exploring different rites of the Catholic Church and what makes each unique. Copy and paste into your internet browser:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2019/01/21/the-other-23-catholic-churches-and-why-they-exist/>

OR go to:

www.lighthouseideas.org

TAB: EPIC_2022

PW: EXODUS33 (Case Sensitive)

Pillars of the Church

1. The Creed: Profession of Faith: Divine Revelation (CCC 1-184), God (CCC 185-278), Creation/Fall (CCC 279-421), Jesus Christ (CCC 422-682), The Holy Spirit (CCC 683-747), The Church (CCC 748-987), The Last Things (CCC 988 – 1065)

2. Sacraments: The Celebration of Christian Mystery: The Liturgy (CCC 1066 – 1209), The Sacraments (CCC 1210 – 1690)

3. Fellowship: Life in Christ (Morality): The Moral Life (1691 – 2051), The Commandments (CCC 2052 – 2557)

4. Christian Prayer (The Prayers): Catholic Spirituality (CCC 2558-2865)