

## SYLLABUS

**INSTITUTION:** St. Augustine High School,  
1300 Galveston St. Laredo, TX 78040

**SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER:** 956 724-8131

**COURSE TITLE:** Church History

**CREDITS:** 1

**GRADE:** Juniors

**TITLE OF TEXT:** *THE CHURCH OUR STORY* by Patricia Morrison Driedger, Ave Maria Press, © 2006.

**DATES OF COURSE:** August 15-December 17, 2007

**TEACHER:** Sister Rosemarie Goins, CSSF

### INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

The students will

- Have a general knowledge and understanding of the history of the Roman Catholic Church from Apostolic times to the present.
- Be introduced to the fact that the Church was founded by Jesus Christ through the Apostles and is sustained by him throughout history through the Holy Spirit.
- Have a deeper understanding of the development of the Church's moral teaching, doctrine and values as handed down from the apostles and through the generations. Know what the Church teaches and why?
- Have an understanding of what can and cannot change in the Church.
- Be challenged to accept more responsibility for their spiritual life and for making God visible in the world through the manner in which they live their lives and serve others.
- Develop a solid conscience based on strong moral principles, Scripture and church tradition.
- Learn various forms of prayer, such as, meditation, traditional prayers, litanies, etc.
- Appreciate the contributions of other religions and cultures.

### CONTENT:

- I. The meaning, the basic beliefs (Nicene Creed) and marks of the Church – One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.
- II. The important events of the Early Church: Death and Passion of Jesus, Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost.
- III. The teaching and preaching of the Apostles, especially Peter and Paul.

- IV. The experience and lifestyle of the Early Church through the Acts of the Apostles and other sources, such as, transition from the Last Supper to Breaking of the Bread in house liturgies (The Period of the Domestic Church).
- V. The Age of Growth amid Persecution
- VI. The role of the magisterium and the role of the laity.
- VII. The Age of the Fathers of the Church
  - A. Freedom of worship under Constantine
  - B. House liturgies to worship in public
  - C. Clarification of doctrine by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, such as, St. Augustine, St. Gregory the Great, St. Basil, etc.
  - D. The examination of the Councils of the Church (Council of Jerusalem, The Council of Nicea, Council of Constantinople, The Council of Ephesus, etc.), the doctrines they defined and the heresies they combated (Gnosticism, Arianism, etc.).
- VIII. The separation of the Eastern and Western Churches because of doctrinal disputes. (First separation – 431 A.D., Second – 451 A.D. and the Third – 1054 A.D.)
- IX. The Roman Church of the West
  - A. Collapse of the Roman Empire (around 476 A.D.)
  - B. Barbarian invasions
  - C. Authority, law, protection and assistance provided by the Church in a disintegrating society.
  - D. The rise of the Monks as evangelizers (St. Benedict; St. Columban)
    - 1. Brought Christ to Northern Europe
    - 2. Developed agriculture, wool production, vineyards, etc.
    - 3. Stabilized the nomadic tribes and gave birth to towns
    - 4. Provided schools which promoted education, culture and the classics
- X. The Church of the Middle Ages
  - A. Politics and religion
  - B. New religious orders, such as the Mendicant Orders (Franciscans, Dominicans, etc.)
  - C. Universities
  - D. Rise of great theologians, such as, St. Thomas Aquinas
  - E. Gothic Cathedrals (and other forms of architecture, such as, Romanesque)
  - F. More heresies and Councils, especially about the Eucharist
  - G. Great saints, such as, Francis, Dominic, Joan of Arc, Catherine of Siena, etc.
  - H. Black Death
  - I. The great Schism and the Avignon Papacy
- XI. The Crusades

- XII. The Renaissance
  - A. The rise of Scholarship and the revival of the study of Classical culture and languages
  - B. Christian humanism
  - C. Art, architecture and music
- XIII. Reformation
  - A. Sale of Indulgencies, clerical corruption and ignorance of the Faith
  - B. The break from Rome: Protestantism
    - 1. Martin Luther (Germany)
    - 2. John Calvin (Switzerland)
    - 3. Henry VIII (England)
    - 4. John Knox (Scotland)
  - C. Council of Trent – response to the Reformation
  - D. Baroque Architecture and concert style Masses.
  - E. Developments in the Liturgy: Mystery and Morality Plays, etc.
  - E. More Saints: Ignatius, Teresa of Avila, Vincent de Paul, etc.
- XIV Age of Exploration: Church’s Missionaries confront new cultures
  - A. The Americas
    - 1. Conversion of Mexico: Our Lady of Guadalupe
    - 2. Peter Claver: ministry to African slaves
    - 3. First saints of America: Rose of Lima, Martin de Porres
  - B. Japan, India – St. Francis Xavier
- XV. Age of Enlightenment
  - A. Rationalism, scientific model
  - B. French Revolution and impact on the Church
  - C. New religious congregations founded for teaching
  - D. Vision of Mary at Lourdes – St. Bernadette
  - E. Saints: Therese of Lisieux, John Vianney, etc.
- XVI. The Impact of Council of Vatican I
- XVII. Industrial Revolution – Need for social justice for workers and the use of the goods of the earth for all peoples. (Pope Leo XIII)  
Vision of the Merciful Jesus – St. Faustina
- XVIII. The Church and the World Wars  
Vision of Our Lady of Fatima
- XIX. Vatican Council II and the Modern Church

Many of the above areas will be looked at through the lens of the Modern Church and the manner in which doctrine was defined, explained and developed through the ages.

## OTHER AREAS OF STUDY:

- I. Lives of the Saints through the use of the Church Calendar.
- II. Forms of prayer
- III. Liturgy

**SOME POSSIBLE PROJECTS:** Witness Box; Book of Daily “Learnings”; Past and Present floor plans of the Church, such as, cruciform, in-the-round, etc.) and Student designed floor plan; Church Architecture – Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque); Artists, such as, Michelangelo, Raphael, Da Vinci; Saints and their impact on the Church, such as, Francis of Assisi; Church symbols and their meaning and use; Stained glass window design; Missionaries in Mexico and the United States; and other ideas as they grow out of the lessons.

## RESOURCES:

School Library:

- a. Religion and Reference Sections – 200.0
- b. Periodicals – St. Anthony Messenger, Our Sunday Visitor

Internet:

- a. vatican.va (The Holy See)
- b. catholic.net
- c. catholic.net/saints
- d. ewtn.com (Eternal Word Television Network)
- e. usccb.org (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)
- f. catholicworldnews.org
- g. newadvent.org (Catholic Encyclopedia and much more)
- h. theologywebsite.com/history/catholic

**All material is subject to change and adjustment...**

### Student Behaviors

.Be in your seat and ready to learn when class begins with textbook and materials on top.  
 .Be a polite, respectful and positive participant.  
 Be productive. Use class time well and turn in homework and projects on time. Avoid stealing time by talking and misbehaving. .Wait to be dismissed at end of class. Be a problem solver .  
 Be open to new ways of thinking and relating.  
 Be happy, creative and prayerful.

### Show Respect

.Value yourself. Be honest and ethical, and practice strong Christian moral values- Treat all members of the school community and all visitors with politeness and respect. .Honor the ideas and opinions of others.  
 Offer to help and ask for help. Be responsible with property and belongings. .Put into practice what you learn and experience in this class. .Pray to Jesus for the value of respect.

### Responsibility for Coursework

.Bring notebooks, textbook and appropriate writing tools and project materials to class every day.No torn spiral sheets accepted! Use cursive handwriting, unless there are special instructions. Use blue or black ink for assignments to be turned in or computer generated assignments. Know due dates and submit all course work on time. Write down assignments, vocabulary words and objectives for the day's lesson upon entering class. Take notes on class instruction and discussion. Ask for assistance before assignments, projects, essays, quizzes or tests are due or scheduled.

### Promote Lifelong Learning

You can develop lifelong learning traits:

- By showing curiosity for all that God has created and how to live in peace and harmony with all.
- By seeking and valuing diversity.
- By persisting in seeking out new solutions.
- By using your unique talents and intelligence to promote positive change.
- By learning and applying technology tools to solve problems.
- By praying for guidance and help from God every day.

### Grading

Grades are based on the following percentages:

15% Assignments(completion of daily work and assignments)

55% Tests, projects, essays. 15% Participation -15% Quizzes

St. Augustine Grading System

93-100	Excellent Work
85-92	Above Average Work
77-84	Average Work
70-76	Below average
0-69	Failing

### Policies

- .Food, gum and beverages are not allowed in the classroom
- School uniform is worn correctly at all times.
- Class begins when the second bell rings.
- .School rental textbooks must be covered at all times and kept in good condition. They will be collected at the end of the term. Severely damaged books will be replaced at the Student's expense.
- .Student desks should be kept clean and all trash disposed of.
- The teacher's desk, computer, printer, phone, thermostat or any other equipment should not be touched.
- .Absences
  - Ask a classmate first for assignments and class notes
  - Refer to the school handbook regarding make-up assignments

### My Pledge to Students .

- I will trust you until you give me reason to do otherwise.
- .I will respect you and work with you to learn, reflect and pray.
- .I will promptly correct and offer feedback on your work.
- .I will work with you to meet learning goals.
- .I will offer extra help and alternative assessments should you require them.
- .I will pray for you and be available to you.

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