

TIMELINE FOR HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.

- 1565** Foundation of St. Augustine, Florida by Spanish missionaries
- 1609** Foundation of Sante Fe, New Mexico by Spanish missionaries
- 1634** Sir Cecil Calvert (Lord Baltimore), a Catholic convert, promotes Maryland as a haven for English Catholics
- 1637** French Jesuits live with Hurons in New York and Canada
- 1646-1649** French Jesuits are martyred by Iroquois
- 1649** Maryland approves Act of Toleration, allowing freedom of worship; in 1654 Act of Toleration was repealed
- 1769** Junipero Serra establishes missions in California
- 1789** John Carroll, first Roman Catholic bishop of the United States
- 1809** Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton founds American Sisters of Charity
- 1830-1860** Irish immigrations, especially during potato famine of 1845-1850
- 1838** **Hudson's Bay Company permits Rev. Francis Norbert Blanchet and Rev. Modesto Demers to minister to Hudson's Bay Company French Canadians and native peoples at Fort Vancouver, Northwest Territory.**
- 1839** Pope Gregory XVI condemns slave trade; throughout Civil War era there was no unified U.S. Catholic position on the issue of slavery.
- 1840** **Peter John DeSmet, SJ begins mission in Rocky Mountains and Oregon Country.**
- 1859** **Diocese of Nesqually (later Seattle) established at Vancouver, Washington Territory with Fr. A.M.A. Blanchet as bishop; Bishop Blanchet is brother to F.N. Blanchet who becomes bishop of Oregon City (later Portland).**
- 1850s-1890s** Waves of German Catholics immigrate to the United States.
- 1856** **Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart and four Sisters of Providence from Montreal arrive in the Washington Territory at Vancouver.**
- 1859** **Twelve Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary arrive in Portland from Montreal.**
- 1869-70** Forty-nine U.S. bishops attend Vatican Council I
- 1880** **Holy Names Academy is founded in Seattle, Washington.**
- 1884** U.S. Bishops convene Third Plenary Council of Baltimore to review Vatican Council I, create The Baltimore Catechism, and require every parish to have a school.
- 1890s-1920s** Catholic immigrants from southern and eastern Europe come to the United States.
- 1891** Pope Leo XIII issues encyclical *Rerum novarum* ("On the Condition of the Human Labor")

- 1899** Pope Leo XIII issues papal letter *Testem benevolentiae* (“Witness to Good Will”) which criticizes Catholic “Americanism.”
- 1903** **Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini and Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart arrive in Seattle and found a home for orphans on Beacon Hill.**
- 1907** **Name ‘Diocese of Nisqually’ is changed to ‘Diocese of Seattle’ and new St. James Cathedral is dedicated in Seattle.**
- 1907** Pope Pius X condemns Modernism in his encyclical *Pascendi dominici gregis*.
- 1913** **Diocese of Spokane is established.**
- 1919** National Catholic Welfare Council releases *The Bishops’ Program of Social Reconstruction*.
- 1922** **Oregon School Bill passed; KKK-sponsored bill outlawing private schools; Oregon Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary brought the case before the Supreme Court which declared the law unconstitutional in 1924**
- 1928** Alfred E. Smith, a Catholic, gains Democratic presidential nomination, struggles with anti-Catholic bias, defeated at the polls.
- 1933** Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin launch Catholic Worker movement in New York.
- 1941-1945** Holocaust
- 1952** Monsignor Fulton Sheen begins national weekly TV program called *Life Is Worth Living*.
- 1958** USCCB called for end to segregation in *Discrimination and Christian Conscience*.
- 1959** John Fitzgerald Kennedy is elected the first Roman Catholic president of the United States.
- 1961** East Germany erects Berlin Wall to stop exodus of citizens.
- 1962-1965** Vatican Council II convenes in Rome with John XIII; continued by Paul VI.
- 1969** Space travel with walk on the moon
- 1974** Watergate
- 1975** Evacuation of U.S. civilians from South Vietnam
- 1979** Pope John Paul II begins his twenty-six-year papacy
- 1994** Nelson Mandela elected president of South Africa after apartheid is abolished
- 2002** USCCB approved *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*
- 2005** Pope Benedict XVI elected **2013** Pope Benedict XVI resigned
- 2013** Pope Francis I elected
- 2015** Pope Francis visits New York, Philadelphia, Washington, and DC
- 2016** Pope Francis visits Mexico, Poland