



# Check It Out

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## Church History Resources

**The Story of Christianity** Collins, Michael, DK Pub., 1999. Through illustrations, photographs and text, this book on the history of Christianity progresses from the Old Testament to present day Christianity, covering topics as diverse as the early martyrs, the birth of the monasteries, the conversion of Europe, the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Reformation and the rise of the Third World church.

**What You should know about Church History** Altemose, Charlene, Liguori, 2002. A short, handy book that approaches the study of Church history as a journey that begins with the life of Jesus and takes the reader through the challenges and changes that have shaped the Church of today.

**Key Moments in Church History: A Concise Introduction to the Catholic Church** Finley, Mitch, Rowman & Littlefield, 2005. Spanning from the birth of Christianity through the Second Vatican Council, Key Moments in Church History is a brief and accessible guide to the origins and evolution of the Catholic Church. In this insightful and informative look at eleven of the most significant periods in Church history, author Mitch Finley not only helps readers understand the context and characters of the past but also sheds light on the current and future Church. The result is a hopeful and inspirational reading experience that is ideal for both personal reflection and group use.

**The Catholic Church through the Ages: A History** Vidmar, John. Paulist Press, 2005. Christopher Dawson divided the history of the Catholic Church into six "ages" or 350- to 400-year periods that each began with great vitality and ended in decline and loss. In this book, Fr. John Vidmar surveys the history of the church, from its beginnings up to Pope Benedict XVI's pontificate, through Dawson's lens. He writes with enthusiasm and a down-to-earth quality born of years of teaching. Each chapter ends with an annotated list of readings and audiovisuals, and even includes historical novels to help convey a "feeling" for an age.

**This is Our Church: A History of Catholicism** Pennock, Michael, Ave Maria Press, 2007. A comprehensive, readable, and faith-filled portrait of two thousand years of Catholic history that highlights important events, people, trends, and teachings. Complete with photos, charts, and chronologies, the book is a rich resource for high school students learning about the history of the Catholic Church. It uncovers glimpses of this mystery from the Church's earliest roots in the original covenant made between God and Israel, through its institution by Christ, and onward in human history from the apostolic age to the present. The text challenges students to develop a chronological sense of the Church's history, including significant internal and external events, as well as an awareness of the important trends and people throughout its long history.

**The History of the Church: A Complete Course** The Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum, 2005. Fr. Peter Armenio presents the entire history of the Catholic Church from Pentecost to the present day in this volume of the Didache Series. Sidebars, maps, timelines, and other features make this a crucial resource for anyone seeking a Catholic perspective on the history of Christianity. This comprehensive history of the Catholic Church includes every major event in the Church's history through the present day. The book places the Church in its context throughout history and explains the role that the Church and its leaders have played in the shaping of history for better or worse.

**A Concise History of the Catholic Church** Thomas Bokenkotter, Doubleday, 2005. Thomas Bokenkotter divided his study into five parts that correspond to the major historical and epochal developments in Catholicism. His authoritative, thorough approach takes readers from the Church's triumph over paganism, through "the sound and fury of renewal," to a new section devoted to such topics as dissent and current developments in the ecumenical movement. Informative illustrations throughout the book, new to this edition, enrich the reader's experience, and the addition of a wide ranging bibliography increases its value as a sourcebook.

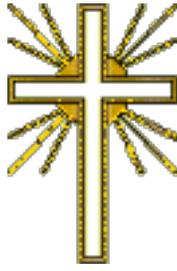
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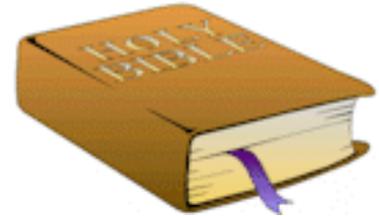


**101 Questions and Answers on Vatican II** Sullivan, Maureen, Paulist Press, 2002. *101 Questions and Answers on Vatican II* brings us back to the beginning—to the preparations and expectations for the Council, to the meetings and developments in 1962-1965, to the internal church struggles and the exterior influences that shaped the final documents, and to the many layers of experience and perspectives within the church since the Council adjourned. For people who have heard of Vatican II but have only experienced the Council through a glass darkly, this book takes them back to the beginning to a basic question: "Just what was Vatican II?"

**Church History 101: A Concise Overview** Bellitto, Christopher M., Liguori Publications, 2008. Introduces the reader to the basics of Catholic Church history. The author divides the Church's history into four distinct periods (early, medieval, Reformation, and modern). Each chapter is further subdivided into manageable segments that address four major issues: The Big Picture, The Church's Hierarchy, The Church in the Pews, and What Makes This Period Unique. This book is a great starting point for anyone interested in learning more about the rich history of the Catholic Church.

### **Sisters: Catholic Nuns and the Making of America**

Fialka, John J., St. Martin's Press, 2003. *Sisters* is the first major history of the pivotal role played by nuns in the building of American society. Nuns were the first feminists, argues Fialka. They became the nation's first cadre of independent, professional women. Some nursed, some taught, and many created and managed new charitable organizations, including large hospitals and colleges. In the 1800s nuns moved west with the frontier, often starting the first hospitals and schools in immigrant communities. They provided aid and service in the Chicago fire, cared for orphans and prostitutes in the California Gold Rush and brought professional nursing skills to field hospitals run by both armies in the Civil War. Their work was often done in the face of intimidation from such groups as the Know Nothings and the Ku Klux Klan. In the 1900s they built the nation's largest private school and hospital systems and brought the Catholic Church into the civil rights movement. As their numbers began to decline in the 1970s, many sisters were forced to take professional jobs as lawyers, probation workers, managers and hospital executives because their salaries were needed to support older nuns, many of whom lacked a pension system. Currently there are about 75,000 sisters in America, down from 204,000 in 1968. Their median age is sixty-nine. In *Sisters*, Fialka reveals the strength of the spiritual capital and the unprecedented reach of the caring institutions that religious women created in America.



## Church History Videos and DVDs

**Apostle Paul and the Earliest Churches** DVD (49 min.) Gateway Films/Vision Video, 2004. Recounts the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul in the Anatolian region, the area known today as Turkey. Presents dramatic reenactments depicting Paul's miracles, persecution, and other key events. The archaeological emphasis is enhanced by 3D animated maps and footage of Antioch on the Orontes, Pisidian Antioch, Ephesus, Tarsus and other cities important to Paul's ministry.

### **The Catholic Church in the Twenty-first Century:**

#### **Finding Hope for its Future in the Wisdom of its Past**

Liguori, 4 videocassettes (each approx. 60 min.) 1. What Can We Learn From the Church in the New Testament? 2. What Can We Learn From the Church in the First Millennium? 3. What Can We Learn from the Medieval Church? 4. What Can We Learn from the Tridentine and Baroque Church? 5. What Can We Learn from the Church in the Nineteenth Century? 6. What Can We Learn from Vatican II?

**The Vision of Vatican II for Today** St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2003. 5 videocassettes (ca. 135 min.) Father Michael Himes looks at the theological background to the Second Vatican Council, some of the revolutionary teachings of the Council itself, and how the wisdom and insights of the Council guide us today. VOLUME 1: "The Roots of Vatican II" . VOLUME 2: "The People Are the Church" . VOLUME 3: "The Church Human and Divine" . VOLUME 4: "The Church Before and After Vatican II" . VOLUME 5: "The Sacrament of Everyday Life".

### **The Jesus Experience Christianity Around the World**

Questar, 2002. DVD, 2 discs (330 min.) Each culture in the world has created its own expression of Jesus. These experiences sprang from ancient Israel, the Roman Empire, the Mediterranean, as well as Russia, Asia, Africa and the Americas. This is the comprehensive chronicle of how Christianity came to billions around the globe. Includes a timeline of Christianity from 33A.D. to the present.