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To Jesus Through Mary

Name: _____ Per. _____ Date: _____
Eighth Grade Religion ID's

Chapter Two: Centuries of Amazing Growth (30 – 313)

1. Pentecost

The Jewish feast of Pentecost celebrated 50 days after Passover commemorated the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, the Apostles were gathered together in the Upper Room. On this day, Jesus fulfilled his promise and sent to them the gift of his Spirit, the Holy Spirit. Filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles came out of hiding in the Upper Room, went into the streets and began sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Thus began the Church, continuing the mission that Jesus gave to them. The mission of preaching, teaching and healing. Thus Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church.

2. Church

A community of believers. Jesus gave to his Church the mission he received from his Father. The mission to proclaim the kingdom of love; the mission to teach us how to be lovers; the mission to heal broken hearts so that they can love. The Church has continued that mission for the past 2,000 plus years.

3. Roman Peace

The great Pax Roma lasted 200 years. The entire Roman world, which stretched across the Mediterranean Sea up through Gaul across the English Channel, was at peace. Good emperors, stable government, sound economy, and an extensive highway system all contributed to this empire-wide peace. Jesus was born into this great peace and the Christian movement benefited from it in its earliest stages.

4. Alexander the Great

Lived from 356 to 323 BC. Created a vast empire stretching from Macedonia into modern-day Turkey, through the Mid-east into India. Used the Greek language and culture to help unify his vast empire.

5. Hellenists

Those throughout the Mid-east who favored the Hellenistic movement begun by Alexander the Great and mixed their local religion and customs with the Greek cultures and gods.

6. Antioch

A major city in the Roman Empire. After the great persecution begun by Saul in Jerusalem, many followers of Jesus fled to Antioch. A large Jewish community was already living in Antioch. It is here that the Romans nickname the Jesus movement as Christians.

7. Diaspora

Those Jews living outside of Palestine. In the first century there were more Jews in the Diaspora than in Palestine.

8. Council of Jerusalem

Takes place around the 48/50 AD. It is considered the first Church Council. The question before the Apostles was did Gentiles need to become Jews before coming followers of Jesus. The Council decided that faith in Jesus was all that was needed for salvation, not the following of Jewish Law. Recall the five guidelines of the Council to Gentile Christians.

9. St. Paul

Saul becomes Paul as the grace of Jesus enters into his life and turns him from being a persecutor of the Jesus movement to being its champion. The great conversion story begins on the road to Damascus, the great blinding light and the voice of the Risen Jesus crying out, "Saul, Saul. Why are you persecuting me?" Paul will go on a total of 5 missionary journeys through the empire, bringing the Good News of Jesus to the Gentile world. He will be known as the Apostle to the Gentiles.

10. Ananias

Is the Jew for Jesus in Damascus who is sent by the Risen Jesus to go and cure Saul of his blindness and baptism him for Jesus has a great mission for Saul.

11. Alexandria

A major city in Egypt. It will become the center of the Jesus Movement during the first several hundred years of Christianity.

12. Gaul

What the Romans called modern-day France.

13. Catholic

The word means universal. By the end of the beginning of the 4th century (the 300's), the Jesus Movement had spread to every major Roman city in the empire. Every major city had a small community of followers of Jesus. The Jesus Movement began to call itself catholic, meaning that it was universally found throughout the empire, not just a local movement or a movement of just one ethnic people.

14. Nero

The Roman emperor in the early 60's. Desiring to undertake an urban renewal project he ordered the burning down of a major slum district in the city of Rome. When the heat began to fall on him for this destruction, he decided to use the new Christian movement as a scapegoat. He blamed the Christians for the burning down of Rome. He ordered the first persecution of Christian movement. Peter and Paul were both martyred at this time (circa 64 AD). Thus began the 250 year period of the Roman persecution of the Christianity.

15. Martyrs

Those who were willing to die for their faith in Jesus.

16. Decius

Roman emperor around 250 AD. Since the empire was in chaos he figured the Roman gods were no longer happy. Blamed the Christians for undermining the state religion and bringing the emperor into chaos. Insisted upon the emperor worship as a means of saving the empire from disaster. All people need to show proof of worship to the Roman gods and emperor. First specifically anti-Christian laws, first empire-wide persecution, aiming to destroy Church leadership.

17. Apostates

Those who deny their faith in Jesus during times of persecution so as to save their lives.

18. Pope Stephen I

Developed the first form for the Sacrament of Reconciliation so as to allow the Apostates back into the Church.

19. Gallienus

Emperor circa 261. 40 year lull in persecutions because he passed a law tolerating the Christian faith.

20. Diocletian

Emperor as the 4th century begins (303). Begins the Great Persecution. 1000's of Christians are killed, property confiscated, sacred books destroyed. Worst persecution of all, especially in Eastern Roman Empire.

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22. Constantine

Seeks to become sole emperor. Mom was Helena, a Christian. His dad was a commander in Roman army and worked Apollos, the Sun God. Constantine too is a commander in Roman army. Marches out to meet his rivals at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge. Paints the sign of the Christos on his army's shields. Is victorious and becomes sole emperor in 312.

23. Edict of Milan

In 313 Constantine issues the Edict of Milan, granting freedom of worship to Christians and ending the 250 years of systematic government persecution of the Christian Church.

24. Gnostics

A group within the Christian movement who believed you were saved by possessing special secret knowledge about Jesus. From the Greek word gnosis meaning knowledge. They are the first major heretical group which threatens the Christian movement from within the movement by having false ideas.

25. Profession of Faith

Also known as a creed. Credo means I believe. It is a profession of what do we believe as members of the church community. The first creed is the Apostles Creed written in the mid 200's. The Nicene Creed was formulated in the early 300's and is still the profession of faith we use at baptism and Mass each Sunday.

26. Apostolic Succession

The bishops of the Catholic Church trace their authority back directly to Jesus and the Apostles. The Catholic Church is the community of believers that Jesus founded upon his Apostles.