

ELABORATION

Acre

This is a Jewish and Christian city with a diverse history of occupation. Muslims conquered in 638, Crusaders occupied in 1104, Muslims regained the City in 1187, Crusaders in 1191, and Muslims again controlled in 1291.

Agape

A meeting or banquet and prayers with rich and poor at the same table.

Albigensianism (aka Albigensianism)

This heretical movement was concerned over the evils of the material world. Papal theological dominance was believed to be restrictive and exclusive.

They protested the moral, spiritual and political corruption of the hierarchy. In many locations, the practice was called *Cathar*. Members (*Cathari*) were often identified as *Bon Homes*, *Bonnes Femmes*, and *Bons Chrétien's*.

By 1318, the movement was all but destroyed during the Inquisition of Toulouse led by Inquisitor General Bishop Jacques Fournier. Fournier later became a Cardinal then, in 1334, he was elected Pope Benedict XII. (refer-Inquisition)

Allegory

A literary, dramatic or symbolic representation; to speak figuratively.

Amalrician Heretics

God identified with the universe: no difference between good and evil; religious ceremonies are over-done; all men and women are equal and potentially divine.

Antichrist

This has been a rally-cry to a variety of threats. By far, it is the most-used Christian demeaning term.

Often it is ascribed to any current-day villain i.e. sultans, kings, invaders, dictators, heretics, leaders of competitive religions, political and social enemies, and even relatives. Comparatively, the Muslims' favored word-choice remains "infidel".

Antiquity

In the early centuries, antiquity was respected and highly valued. A recent innovation like Christianity simply wasn't readily accepted.

As an aside, it wasn't until circa 63, and probably originating in Antioch, that these believers slowly began to term themselves "Christian".

Christians began to argue that their religion was laced with true realities of Jewish scripture, claiming that they (not the Jews) fulfilled Moses' promise to God. Using those documents gave them a link to the ancient and therefore, authenticity. And that Jesus

was the promised Messiah. To minimize debate, they simply put down the Jews as being disloyal to the laws of Moses.

Apostasy

Renunciation of a religious faith. An apostate is one who commits apostasy.

Apostles and Disciples

James was the Bishop of Jerusalem. Apostles John and James (“the greater”) were brothers. This James is mentioned in all four Gospels. Jude was the brother of James (“the less”). This James was a witness to Christ’s resurrection. Luke, a companion of Paul, never saw Jesus. Mark, who might not have ever seen Jesus, was a companion of Peter. Matthew (Levi) was the only Apostle who wrote a Gospel.

The death of Judas Iscariot (meaning man of Kerioth, a Judea village) reduced the number to eleven.

A meeting was called in the selection process for a replacement. The Acts of the Apostles (1: 21-25) clearly defined an essential requirement, “It is entirely fitting, therefore, that one of those who was of our company while the Lord Jesus moved about us...be named...” Of the two candidates finally considered, Matthias was chosen over Joseph Barsabbas (aka Justus), not to be confused with Paul’s associate, Judas Barsabaas.

Because of Paul’s contribution to Christianity, the Roman Catholic Church (as well as Paul) considers him to be an Apostle. Actually, he said, “I have seen the Lord.”

The First Letter to Timothy (2: 1-8) includes, “... for this I was appointed preacher and Apostle.” (refer: Elaboration-Paul)

[Some particulars: It is curious that the twelve statues of the Apostles as displayed in the recent world tour of Vatican Treasures included Paul, but not Matthias.]

Often, the title, “disciple” is substituted with “apostle” and so some latitude must be given to the definitions.

Apostolic Authority

To be viewed as a creditable organization and since all authority comes from God through Jesus to the Apostles, Apostolic Succession was vital. Some Elders, therefore, began to appoint clergy with the belief that the person (priest or bishop) in charge fulfilled this apostolic-authority role. This is even after a lapse of succession of more than 50 years.

Since authority comes from God, decision-makers affirmed that one may never oppose, doubt, or challenge the priest in charge. To do so would be to question God’s own credentials.

Arguments in consideration of the Philosophy of Religion

The three basic categories are: Cosmological, Ontological, and Teleological.

Cosmological argument maintains all things have a cause. Thomas Aquinas proved the existence of God as “prime mover” or “first cause”.

Ontological argument offered by Anselm of Canterbury is that we conclude the existence of God by the very idea or nature of His being.

Teleological argument discussed in William Paley's book, *Natural Theology*, offers that life (all things) is much too complex to have come into existence by chance.

Arianism

The Arius heresy opposed Christ's co-existence with God the Father, implying inequality and denying Jesus' divinity.

Art

One of the greatest contributions that the Roman Church made to universal religious education was that of visual spiritual-culture. Pope Gregory the Great (590-604), through his *Doctrine on Christian Art*, directed artists to use their talents to project religious story-telling for the illiterate majority.

Some popular artists who contributed to this effort over the years included: Bernini, de Vinci, Duccio, Giotto, Donatello, Michelangelo, Raphael, and Rembrandt.

Atheism

Denial of the existence of any god.

Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

His works include *Confessions*, *City of God*, and *Teaching Christianity*. *City of God* is a Christian philosophy of history. Divine providence is seen in all earthly events. In *Confessions*, the first nine books are stories of his life while the final four deal with scripture, time, and memory. [Some particulars: The word "confessor" in Latin means, "martyr". In Greek, both words denote "witness".]

Augustine maintained that babies who died without "baptismal grace" must go to hell. He defined a lie as, "The distance between the public utterance of one's mouth and the secret knowledge of one's heart."

On gender differences, Augustine offered, "Whether it be a wife or a mother, we must beware of any woman."

Augustine taught that God is revealed in the universe as well as by spiritual writings. He suggested that the Bible and the world are "two books". Both are to hear and experience divine existence.

Basilica

In Roman times this term applied to a public building. Constantine donated many to the Christians.

In addition to various offices, a major portion of the structure included a long hallway called a *Nave*, and an *Apse*, a circular area at one end which later became the sanctuary for conducting Masses.

Years later, Gothic church architecture added a *Transept*, the horizontal expansion which, when viewed from above, forms a cross.

A Roman Catholic basilica refers to a church given ceremonial privileges.

The *Basilica di San Pietro in Vaticano*, Saint Peter's Basilica, is the largest Catholic Church in the world. After the reconstruction was finished in 1626, it became known as the Renaissance Basilica.

Brigid (Brigd, Bride, or Bridget)

A Celtic Goddess of Healing, Poetry, and Smithcraft.

Her shrine is in Leinster, Ireland.

A young high priestess, served at the shrine, converted to Christianity (circa 412, about 20 years before Patrick's arrival) and adopted the goddess' name.

Saint Brigid is referred to as Brigid of Kildare (meaning Church of the Oak, the sacred tree of the druids).

Her feast day, February 1st is the same as the Celtic festival, *Imbolc* (aka *La Fheile Bride*), which celebrates the first signs of spring.

Reflecting on the probability of her having been consecrated, there are references to Brigid's activities in "her pontifical way" and many occasions of her preaching. There is also documentation of coadjutors (bishops assisting another bishop) reporting to the monastery head,

"Abbess Brigid". [Editor's note: It is hoped that sometime the speculation dealing with "Bishop" Brigid will be resolved by an open willingness to review this matter, coupled with an appropriate evaluation of all available documentation.]

Calvin, John

His *Institute of the Christian Religion* supported the theory that all people are predestined and have no free will. This was the dominant theology in the Anglican Church through 1645. (See: Methodist)

Catacombs

Christians revived the ages-old Jewish practice of burying their dead rather than cremation. The popularity of this practice was a result of an unyielding belief in bodily resurrection.

Catholic Faiths

The following selection is not meant to encompass the total number of sects:

- *Maronite Catholic**
- *Melkite Greek Catholic**
- *Old Catholics*
- *Orthodox Eastern Church** - This is a collective name of the Patriarchal churches of Alexandria, Antioch, Constantinople and Jerusalem as well as the associated churches of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Japan, Romania, the Sinai, and the Slavic countries.
- *Alexandrian* (from region of Alexandria) include:
 - Egyptian (or Coptic Orthodox*- the Catholic Copts in Egypt) and the Catholic Ethiopians, Armenian (aka Old Armenian) and Armenian of Sis (Cilicia)
 - Byzantine include: Albanian, Arabic, Georgian, Greek, Hungarian, Old Slavonic and Romanian.

- *Eastern Syrian** (Chaldean Catholic) include: Chaldeans of the Near East and Malabarese of India. Jacobites of Malabar, Mesopotamia, and Syria. Western Syrian (Antiochine) include: Malankar, Maronite, and Pure Syrian.
- *Polish National Catholic Church*
- *Roman Catholic*
- *Romanian Orthodox*
- *Russian Orthodox Church* - This is the largest Christian community in the former Soviet Union. Russian Christians had belonged to the Orthodox family of churches originating in Constantinople.
- *Orthodox Church in America (OCA)* was formerly known as the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of North America. In 1970, the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church granted the OCA autonomy, allowing it to have its own Primate. OCA also includes Romanian Orthodox, Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese, and the Bulgarian Orthodox Diocese.
- *Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia* (aka Russian Orthodox Church Abroad) withdrew from the Russian Orthodox Church in 1917, following the Bolshevik Revolution. Russian Orthodox leaders who stayed, pledged loyalty to the new Communist regime. Presently there are more than 400,000 members worldwide. It is led by Metropolitan Laurus in New York. In mid 2007, Metropolitan Isidor of Moscow, representing the Russian Orthodox Patriarch, visited major cities throughout the world to commemorate the signing of the Canonical Communion reconciling the two groups. [Editor's note: The title, Metropolitan, as used in Eastern and other Orthodox churches, defines a bishop ranking next below the Patriarch, who serves as the head of an ecclesiastical province.]
- *American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox*
- *Ukrainian Orthodox*

Observations on *Catholic Faiths*:

*Old Catholics Church was formed in 1870 by Bishop Dollinger and other German theologians. This valid Catholic Church allows clergy to marry and started the practice of religious services in the local vernacular. Members cannot accept the Vatican definition of infallibility, considering the concept totally lacking historical proofs.

*Orthodox Eastern churches challenge certain dogma and beliefs held by the Roman Catholic Church. These include, but are not limited to, the primacy of the pope, infallibility, indulgences, and the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

Eastern Catholic churches discontinued the use of the term "rite" in the 1980s. The five major branches which include Alexandrian, Antiochene, Armenian, Byzantine and Chaldean are self-governing within the Roman Catholic Church. His Holiness Karekin II is Catholicos of all Armenians. Headquartered in Etchmiadzin, Armenia, as supreme patriarch he leads the 7 million Armenian

Orthodox Christians, one million of whom live in the United States. During the former Soviet Union's religious repression, some Armenians broke from this group, aligning with the Lebanon-based See of Cilicia (aka the Armenian of Sis [Cilicia]). His Holiness Aram I, as patriarch leads this smaller branch.

The Monastic Republic of Holy Mt. Athos is the spiritual center of the Eastern Orthodox Church and the home to over 2,000 monks (no women allowed, even as visitors). This mini-state in Greece was chartered by the Byzantine emperor at Constantinople in 972. That flag still flies over many of the 20 monasteries. Some of the better-known are: Simonopetra, Grigoriou, and Vatopedi.

Many Chaldeans are led by the Patriarch of Babylon.

*Eastern Syriac The Syro-Chaldean still speak Aramaic (language of Jesus Christ). Both the Syro-Chaldean and Syro-Malabar churches hold the tradition of being founded by the Apostle Thomas and refer to themselves as Christians of Saint Thomas.

The Maronite Catholics use Syriac, a version of Aramaic, as their liturgical language. Their current leader is Cardinal Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir, Patriarch of Antioch.

Melkite Greek Catholics are presently led by Gregory III Laham, the Patriarch of Antioch and All of the East, and Alexandria, and Jerusalem.

Jacobites of Malabar, Mesopotamia, and Syria are led by their Patriarch of Antioch.

*Coptic Orthodox Church Pope Shenouda III is the current leader. Disciple Mark is considered to be both the founder of the Coptic Church and its first patriarch. This Church founded the Catechetical School of Alexandria, the oldest such school in the world and Christendom's most important institution of religious learning.

Athanasius, a Coptic (c. 310), wrote the Nicene Creed.

In the U.S. there are nearly 130 Coptic Orthodox Churches.

In Egypt, "Copts", numbering 10% of the population, are subject to government-sanctioned oppression.

Copts An equivalent of the word "Egyptians", from the ancient "Ha-ka Ptch" (i.e. "the house of the spirit Ptch").

It is an ethno-religious term for Christian Egyptians who trace their lineage to ancient times as distinguished from the native Muslims.

Society of Saint Pius X This is a Swiss based organization founded by French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre in 1969. Although the pre-established rules for ordination of priests and bishops had been adhered to, the Vatican excommunicated its members. Their legitimacy seems to be authentic and, therefore the group may fall into the category of "Orthodox".

Christian Genocide

Occurring between 1915 and 1917, this is presently called the “First Genocide of the Twentieth Century”.

Islamic Turks and Kurds, through murder and systematic starvation, participated in the deaths of over 1½ million Christians.

It began with the torture and drowning of some 1,200 Christian clerics and intellectual leaders. Government-sponsored mobile killing-units were employed.

Christians were forced to pray to Allah, then murdered.

Christian girls under the age of 14 were confined to harems and required to “pray in the Islamic fashion.” Any refusals resulted in gang-rape, torture, and death.

Muhhal’s preaching became the rally-cry for the participants, “If you kill enough Christians even the gates of Hell will become the gates of Heaven.”

To date, the Turkish Government simply denies that it happened. (refer: Elaboration-Ottoman)

Christian Membership

Roman Catholics number 1,105,810,000 worldwide (In U.S. it’s 67,260,000); Orthodox worldwide are approximately 218,427,000; Anglican world membership is 78,745,000; Independent Christians number 416,541,000; Protestant faiths are approximately 369,848,000.

Christianity in Compromise

Christianity is often referred to as a religion not of Jesus but rather about Jesus. There were a variety of Christian groups, each having its own view of the teachings of Jesus. Each too, maintained the authenticity of their “proofs”. Some followed individuals or writings of a variety of gospels, even including the later “unapproved” versions such as Peter’s, and the Second Book of James. (A few such groups are discussed elsewhere in Elaboration.)

Theological interpretations by dozens of groups had to be minimized. The stronger faction by some compromise or by their sheer numbers finally won. This is referred to as Proto-Orthodox.

Christians needed apostolic writings coupled with the Old Testament to give them an authoritative voice. The Teachings of the Twelve Apostles called the Didache (pronounced, “did-a-kay”), a Greek word for teaching, was written circa 130. It was described as a guideline to the “Way of Life and the Way of Death.” Some of the Proto writers included Barnabas, Clement, Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, and Polycarp. This first Church manual included instructions on practicing worship services (later to be called the Mass) and Baptism. At this time there were no rites such as confession, marriage, ordination, etc. The preferred Baptism procedure was by total immersion in cool running water (rivers, etc.), by standing water or, lastly, by pouring water over one’s head. In each case, the ritual was to be done three times.

At the worship service (Mass), wine must always be offered first, followed by the distribution of bread. Maintaining the earliest traditions, turns at conducting these services were always by non gender-specific baptized members.

During the second century a slow selection process began to decide, specifically, which books, gospels and letters were to become “canonical”.

Justin martyr’s work, *Dialogue with Tryphs* (c. 135) is considered to be the last face-to-face theological exchange between Judaism and Christianity.

Theologian Irenaeus authored *Against Heretics* which defined the sense of early Church dogma and opposition to Gnostics. Circa 195, he detailed Apostolic Succession, Canon Laws (later to become the Creed), and the Rules of Faith. All of these works were an effort to short-circuit dozens of arising Christian sects.

The Muratorian Canon was developed about the year 210. [Some background: This work had been lost, but was found by an Italian named Muratoria, thus the name.] It is believed to be the first list of books dealing with Christian beliefs. To be a Canon it had to have “old” writings and to have been composed by the Apostles (or their assistants or someone who had heard the stories). It must be Orthodox, which means that it was widely accepted. The Muratorian Canon included four Gospels and 13 Epistles of Paul (some of which, Ephesians for example, seem to have been written years after his death). Later, in 367 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, approved the 27 Books of the New Testament.

Eusebius (261-340) elaborated on Christian concepts. “Heresy” and the “Orthodox” each are not necessarily accurate or true. Heresy meant choice, a free choice to believe a theological opinion or not. But Orthodoxy is the point of view that survived, winning over all others.

The Schism in the 11th century between Western (Roman) and Eastern (Greek) coupled with the Protestant Reformation during the 16th century has resulted in three major units of Christianity. These share the scripture, creed and moral standards, deferring in worship, some theology and structure.

Other Proto-Orthodox practices included;

- *Benefit of Clergy*

A defense mechanism, which historically has given judgment-protection to *ordained* Roman Catholics. Basically, the standard maintains that members simply do not have the right to judge what seems to be inappropriate priestly behavior. God will judge the ordained delinquent.

[Some particulars: Almost paranoid concern over scandal in the ranks of the ordained and the subsequent effect on Church authority has historically been of paramount importance. There are vivid examples in every religious, social and governmental body. The organized cover-up of the actions by pedophile priests by suppression of such malfeasance speaks loudly to the practice of “Omerta”, a code of silence and suppression of information. The “co-conspiracy” in these rapes by bishops and higher authorities has simply not been ethically addressed.]

- *Tradition in the Roman Catholic Church*

Questions arise as to the methods by which the Roman Church equates “good” versus “bad” tradition. This seems to be an exclusive responsibility of the

Vatican. For example, the decision-makers disallow the ordination of women based on tradition even in light of substantial supporting data regarding women's ministry among early Christians.

Only later, with changes in gender leadership during the maturing process of Church authority and administration did this significant involvement and responsibility of women waste away.

For years now, there has been renewed recognition of woman's value among many Christian denominations and some Jewish Congregations. The Vatican has thwarted appeals to openly discuss women's role in the diaconate and priesthood. Pope John Paul II (c. 2002) said that it was a non-issue and there was to be no further discussion.

Presently, there are approximately 41,000 Roman Catholic priests in America. This is a 29 percent decrease in their numbers since 1967.

Regarding married priests, this seems to be somewhat in the same category, even though a rather unusual situation developed in 1980 and later. After the Church of England ordained women, many male ministers quit in protest. John Paul II chose to invite these Anglican Episcopal priests, with families, to be ordained into the Roman Catholic Church. Obviously this was an affront to the leaders of the Church of England. Today, in the United States and elsewhere many of these married-parent priests lead Catholic parishes.

What then of other traditions? Church tradition, as written by Cardinal Bernadin, in principle allows the State to resort to capital punishment. [Some background: Cases in point include Saint Jeanne d'Arc and the thousands of Inquisition murders.] However, he said that a consistent ethical opposition to capital punishment should exist and, therefore, this tradition must be re-examined. In another case of tradition, Christians were often forbidden from using the services of Jewish physicians. Specific directions on this matter were published by German clergy in the mid 17th century saying, "ever it were better to die with Christ than to be cured by a Jew doctor, aided by the devil."

[Editor's note: Issues of "selective ethics and morality" must always be open to full examination and exploration. Acceptance of the changes in responsibility, education, and rights of the individual is a requirement of today's leadership. Unwillingness to openly discuss traditions, either subjectively "good" or "bad", simply stagnates the Church in its ethical, moral, social, and spiritual responsibilities.]

- *Pax Dei (Peace of God) and Treuga Dei (Truce of God)*

During the eleventh century, implementing *Pax Dei*, the Church sought agreement from the warring nobility to grant clergy and peasants living within ecclesiastical property and lands immunity from violence.

The new class, warrior-elite, made up of knights supporting the aristocrats and church leaders were also governed by spiritual and temporal loyalties. One tradition, *Treuga Dei*, actually forbade fighting on Holy Days.

- *Regula Fidei (Rule of Faith)*

This is a list of doctrines about God that must be affirmed by all true Christians. These beliefs were held mostly by Roman Christians.

However, matters such as Apostolic Succession, most certainly, did not even exist during the first 50 to 75 years of Christianity.

- *Prescription*

A legal document which resolves (and sanctions) an issue long before it goes to trial for a scripture-validating decision. As an example the “Protos” used prescription to establish that Christ is both completely human and completely God.

Christianity in Comparison

The common thread among all religious beliefs includes tenets of worship, ritual practices, and routine obligations.

Christianity was the first religion to be based on doctrine (and apparently, the earliest to build on the restraint of other beliefs). Pagans had no doctrine, just philosophy.

Christians focused on beliefs and doctrine, believing that Jesus was the predicted Messiah. No faithful Jew would identify such a powerless criminal in this category.

Establishing doctrine as key meant that one must adhere to only the “proper” beliefs.

Paul taught that salvation could be secured only through acceptance of the message that Christ died for our sins, was raised up after three days, and appeared to others.

Physical proof was His death and burial, while appearances proved Resurrection.

To Paul doctrine was always more important than offering sacrifice or other rituals.

Recently, Pope Benedict XVI said that doctrinal truth is not reached by democratic procedures. However, within this perspective, some consideration must be given to the history of Church’s *modus operandi* and even within her General or Ecumenical councils.

Granted, it may well be a loose definition of “democratic” and certainly would apply only to the ordained but, bishops and cardinals openly argued faith issues, which often resulted in doctrine by consensus or majority vote.

The Catholic Faith holds that in Transubstantiation, bread and wine *becomes* the body and blood of Jesus Christ. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Methodist Church and other denominations subscribe to Consubstantiation, in which Jesus is *spiritually* present in the bread and wine. Several other Christian denominations hold that the items are *symbolic* of Jesus.

Church Councils

Throughout Church history there have been dozens of councils, General or Synod, and Ecumenical (21, including “Vatican I” and “Second Vatican”) and those called by kings, emperors, patriarchs of the “East” churches, et cetera. [Editor’s note: A brief overview, entitled *Roman Catholic Church Councils* is included. See Appendix.]

Clergy

A professional class among Christians was established after Constantine’s recognition and establishment of the “official faith”. As a downside, the non-ordained rapidly lost a

shared position, becoming only observers, rather than participants in the Liturgy of Mass. This period also marked the development of Church hierarchy.

Clergy Appointments

Beginning with Constantine, this continues to be an on-going struggle between secular and religious authority.

[Some particulars: At this writing, in Vietnam, the Communist Party must approve the selection of any clergy. Pope Benedict XVI wishes to restore diplomatic relations with and to secure an increased presence in The People's Republic of China. Successful negotiations rest on the Vatican's acceptance of major concessions, among which are China's right to "approve of" (appoint) Roman Catholic clergy and only when the Holy See dissolves diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Cardinal Zen of Hong Kong said, "There are a lot more people to be taken care of in China." In May 2006, the "patriotic Catholic Church in China" (controlled by the Communist Party) appointed two new bishops. The Pope reacted with "profound displeasure" to this unauthorized action.] (refer: c. 1715)

Condotta

(Italian) This is a contract for mercenary services with the Commander (*Condottieri*).

Creed

Discussed in the Councils of Nicaea (325), Constantinople (381), and Chalcedon in 451. After Emperor Henry II of Germany advised Pope Benedict of his country's use of the Creed, the Pope directed that it be included in Roman Mass liturgy.

There are a variety of names and versions (revisions) to include, but not limited to, the Athanasian Creed, Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, and the Apostles Creed.

Crusades

Eight major canonical crusades (of the ten called crusades) occurred between 1095 and 1291 and one each in the 14th and 15th centuries.

The fourth, in 1204, sacked Constantinople killing Orthodox Christians. The Holy Lands remained under Muslim occupation. [Some particulars: Prior to "Constantinople", more than half of the Western European Crusaders had returned to their homelands. The remaining were mostly Venetians, who, for years, had been under the threat of "Eastern" hostile invasion. In an attempt to defuse the potential invasion of Constantinople, Pope Innocent III had excommunicated all who refused to abandon the attack.]

The Rhineland (1096), England (1290) and the Franks (1306) massacred and expelled Jews. The Albigensian Crusade (1229) in France was conducted against Christian "heretics".

[Some details: Distinctive in each crusade specifically against Muslims was a reaction to what had been considered as a hostile invasion, first into Christian and Hebrew Arabia, then North Africa, the Iberian Peninsula and to the gates of Western Europe.]

Cult

from *Synopsis of the Reign of the Roman Catholic Pontiffs*

Compiled by J. Alan O'Connor | copyright © 2007-2008 J. Alan O'Connor

www.reign-of-pontiffs.org

From the Latin, *Cultus Deorum*, meaning Care of the Gods.

Curia of the Vatican

Congregations

- *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*
Established by Pope Paul III in 1542 as the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Roman and Universal Inquisition. This is the oldest of the congregations. In 1908, Pope Pius X renamed it Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office. In 1965, Paul VI assigned its current name. In 1988, Pope John Paul II defined its responsibility "...to promote and safeguard the doctrine on the faith and morals throughout the Catholic world."
- *Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments*
Revised in 1969 by Pope Paul VI, it oversees worship ceremonies and rites, world-wide standardization, and liturgical changes. It was originally established in 1588 by Pope Sixtus V as the Congregation of Rites to develop guidelines for worship and canonization.
- *Congregation for Bishops*
Begun by Pope Sixtus V in 1588, it oversees the activities in dioceses and appoints, supervises and regulates the activities of bishops
- *Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life*
Instituted in 1586 as the Sacred Congregation for Consultations about Regulars by Pope Sixtus V to supervise religious communities. This includes the establishment, directing activities of, and abolishment as deemed necessary.
- *Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples*
Originally founded by Pope Gregory XV in 1622 to oversee missionary territories, supplying clergy and funding.
- *Congregation for the Causes of Saints*
Initially part of Pope Sixtus V's Congregation of Rites (1588) to develop guidelines for worship and canonization, in 1969 Pope Paul VI established this as a separate unit.
This inquiry process has produced more than 784 saints (Pope John Paul II alone approved of 482). The procedure does not necessarily include some of the tens of thousands historically considered to be saints. [Some background: Earlier noteworthy sources include Jacobus de Voragine's (d.1288) *The Golden Legend* and some 50 volumes of *Acta Sanctorum*.]
- *Congregation for Catholic Education (in Seminaries and Institutes of Study)*
Named by Pope John Paul II in 1988. The unit was a result of Pope Leo XII's 1824 *Congregatio studiorum* for Papal State schools; redefined by Pope Benedict XV in 1915. The Congregation primarily oversees pontifical universities of ecclesiastical studies and seminaries.
- *Congregation of the Oriental Churches*
Initiated by Pope Pius IX in 1862 to oversee the Roman Church relationship with the Eastern Catholic traditions.
- *Congregation for the Clergy*

Established by Pope Pius IV in 1564 as the Congregation of the Council. The name was changed by Pope Paul VI. It regulates and administers all councils dealing with pastoral ministry, sanctions Catechisms, and religious formation. This unit oversees ecclesiastical funds and properties dealing with clergy. [Editor's note: In 1983, the word "Sacred" was dropped from the formal name for the Curia Congregations.]

Tribunals

Pontifical courts often consider appeals of cases heard in ecclesiastical courts.

- *Apostolic Penitentiary*
Covers cases of sacramental confession. All processes are entirely secret.
- *Roman Rota*
Deals with matrimonial issues.
- *Signatura Apostolica*
This is the pontifical "Supreme Court".

Offices

- *Secretariat of State*
Cardinal Secretary of State is responsible for diplomatic and political activity. At times, he represents the pope.
- *Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See*
Manages papal properties for funding of the Roman Curia.
- *Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See*
Supervises the temporal goods of administration.
- *Apostolic Camera*
Operates all temporal offices in the short-term, following the death of a pope and prior to the election of a successor.
- *Apostolic Chancery*
Prepares all pontifical documents.
- *Apostolic Datary*
Handles appointments to various posts.
- *Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue*
Originally created in 1964 by Pope Paul VI as the Secretariat for the Non-Christian Religions to address oppression in the Middle East. Renamed by John Paul II in 1998.
- *Secretariat for Latin*
Responsible for the composition of all official documents.

[Editor's note: The Roman Curia is continually adjusting responsibilities and assignments of any number of their operational functions and, therefore, all available data is certainly time- sensitive.]

Darby, John Nelson

As a priest, he discounted the authoritative power of clergy calling it a sin against the Holy Spirit. Darby saw this power limiting recognition that God could speak completely

through any church member (including women). Roman Church authority strictly criticized him. (Refer c. 1832)

Dialectic

Arriving at a truth by disclosing contradictions in an opponent's argument. As a major change in Christian theological exploration, the use of this form of persuasive logic is, in part, attributed to Archbishop Lanfranc of Canterbury (1010-1089).

Dialog Tryplio

Jews deserving of punishment by the Romans at the end of their second uprising. This was believed to be valid by many Christians, "because you murdered the Just One (Christ)."

Dioceses

There are 195 dioceses and 32 archdioceses in the United States plus others in the Nation's dependencies.

- State of Illinois:
 - Archdiocese of Chicago
 - Five dioceses - Belleville, Joliet, Peoria, Rockford, and Springfield.
- State of Wisconsin:
 - Archdiocese of Milwaukee
 - Four dioceses -Green Bay, LaCrosse, Madison, and Superior.

Doctores Ecclesiae (Doctors of the Church)

This is the title given to extraordinary individuals in Catholicism. They are credited with exceptional contributions to educational, spiritual and theological history.

Presently, there are 33 Doctors (including three women); twenty-five in the Roman and eight in the Eastern traditions.

Some of the more popular Roman Doctors are: Ambrose, Augustine, Catherine of Sienna, Gregory the Great, Jerome, Teresa of Avila, and Thérèse of Lisieux. In the Eastern churches, three of the most recognized Doctors are: Basil, John Chrysostom, and Gregory Nazianzen.

As late as 1969, no woman had been considered for this tribute. Then, in 1970, Pope Paul VI honored Teresa of Avila and Catherine of Sienna. And in 1997, Pope John Paul II elevated Thérèse of Lisieux.

Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem

Early Muslims celebrated it as the place where God completed the Creation.

Presently, Muslims regard it as the spot where the prophet Muhammad arrived on his "mystical Night" (a journey from his home to Jerusalem) and his ascension to heaven.

Dominican Religious Order

Dominic de Guzmán was a Spanish theologian who, with a group of followers, had begun preaching against the Albigensian heretics in southern France. He requested papal recognition for his group, but as the Fourth Lateran Council (1215) prohibited new orders, Pope Innocent III directed Dominic to adopt one of the existing “rules” (formats). He fashioned the group, utilizing the old, commonly called, “rule of Saint Augustine”. In 1216, Pope Honorius III formally confirmed Dominic’s rules and thus, the Order.

Donatism

Any Sacraments administered by “sinful” clergy were to be regarded as invalid.

Easter

Romans required early Christians to renounce their faith and observe pagan customs. Failure to offer sacrifices to their gods resulted in torture or death. Later, as an example of absorbing portions of pagan customs into Christian ritual, the pagan spring festival was called *Pascha*, a term that many Orthodox continue to use. It is similar to the Jewish tradition, festival of life. Christian Pentecost holds some similarity to Shavu’ot. (refer: Judaism)

Anglo-Saxons embraced a spring goddess, Osterne. Augustine of Canterbury, England, secured Pope Gregory I’s permission to incorporate “Osterne” into the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection, using new–life symbols (lilies, eggs, and rabbits).

In the same way, early Jewish culture had adapted Semitic symbols of the lamb and unleavened bread.

Ebionites

These were Jewish Christians who recognized Jesus as the Messiah, but not divine. They continued observing Jewish tradition and law.

It is believed that this sect, founded by Epiphanius and others, was well established prior to 70 AD.

Members followed James’ Epistles, taking on a life of voluntary poverty and donating all excess goods and monies to charity. Ebionites held that when Gentiles were to be baptized, they must also convert to Judaism.

They accepted a form of Matthew’s gospel (calling it the *Gospel of the Nazarene*) as originally written in Aramaic (or Hebrew), rejecting chapters one and two.

The *Gospel of the Ebionites* (originally written in Greek) is a combination of stories found in the gospels of Luke, Matthew, and Mark.

They denied the concept of the Virgin Birth.

Erastianism

A doctrine which stresses submission of the church to civil authority in all matters.

Excommunication

An ecclesiastical censure, depriving a person or persons of the rights of church membership. It has been used throughout Church history as the “final solution” to theological, financial, political, social, or scientific disputes.

Existentialism

In part, this theory strongly supports the belief that we do have control over the outcome of our own lives. Socrates wrote, "One should know thyself."

The idiom, Existentialism, was developed by French philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre (c. 1945).

Fish

An early Christian symbol which uses the Greek word, *Ichthys*, as an acronym for the phrase "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior." Beginning circa 150, that figure of a fish represented a Christian.

Galileo Galilei

He was accused of heresy by the Roman Catholic Church for his support of Copernicus' heliocentric theory as truth. In fact, the Church was correct in that it was an expression of Galileo's personal belief rather than a proven fact. [Editor's note: Revisions to any established theory are often major contributions to scientific conclusions.]

Gilgamesh, Epic of

Written circa 1700 BC, it tells of the adventures of the King of Uruk (c. 2800 BC) and his friend, Enkidu, in their quest for fame. Many similarities are found in early Hebrew stories.

Glossolalia

Gift of "Speaking in Tongues". A private language used to communicate with God. (refer: Xenoglossia)

Great Schism

This occurred in 1054 between the Eastern (Greek) and Western (Latin/Roman) churches. Although there had been many disagreements, the "straw that broke" was Rome's decision to insert into the Creed following the words "the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father", the additional text, "and the Son" ("Filioque"). Eastern leadership was unable to theologically compromise this revision.

Gnostics

Generally, they embraced allegory and rejected Church authority and organization. Some held that there was one true God but also many other deities.

Salvation did not come from Christ's sacrifice, but rather from His providing of the "Gnosis" (secret learning) of who they are as well as the means of returning to their heavenly home. Some historians refer to the Gnostic writings as "other Christian Gospels".

[Some particulars: *Gnostics* hold that special truths were available only to superior intellects. *Sacramentalists*, however, subscribe to the belief that even ordinary people have the ability to seek and find faith.]

Hell

The place of eternal punishment.

The early New Testament's "hell" (Gehenna [Hades] or in the Greek, Geenna) means only the abode or location of the damned, a place or state of misery. It is mentioned in Luke's Gospel (16: 19-31) as the abode of the dead. There are reflections on the subject found in Mark 9: 43 and 47 and in Matthew 5: 29, 10: 28. The word Gehenna appears in several texts. It is derived from the Valley of Hinnom, near Jerusalem which was used as a garbage dump. In reference to the Christian's use and description of the Hebrew's *Sheol* (*the nether world*), Gehenna is used when punishment is involved. Early Christian scholars in composing the *Creed* indicated, "Jesus descended into hell and on the third day..." Presently, the prayer offers an option, "He died and on the third day..." This approach was indispensable in order to legitimize Christianity as the fulfillment of God's promises to His people.

As key Jewish historical figures must be positioned in God's kingdom, Jesus descended into Sheol (later, renamed Hell) allowing Abraham, Elijah, Moses, and all "saved" Jews to be repositioned in Heaven. Mark's Gospel (9: 2-10) records the transfiguration episode, "...then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus."

Descriptions of environment and circumstances for the occupants of Hell were developed in later texts.

The Hebrew's Sheol is detailed under *Judaism*.

Heresy

Heresy comes from Greek *hairesis* which has two meanings: 1) capturing or acquisition, and 2) a system of philosophy or religious sect. The Roman Church considered heresy to be both immoral and reprehensible; threatening its integrity.

When the term, heresy (heretical, heretic) or to be a heretic (be guilty) is used, the person or persons charged must formally reject an established dogma of the Church.

[Some background: The term Paradoxical Acclamation often appears in studies of heresy and spiritual values. In that context, "paradoxical" may define a statement that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense yet is, perhaps true.]

Index of Prohibited Books

Begun by Paul IV in 1557. Principles that had stimulated the Italian Renaissance's open debate and original theory were overwhelmed by forces that demanded uniformity and obedience. Pius V (1571) created the Sacred Congregation of the Index. In 1966, Pope Paul VI discontinued the Index.

Indulgence

"Authorized" remission of punishment. It is a pardon of "time" in purgatory which had been assigned for a sin or sins. A plenary indulgence may be in whole or partial. Indulgences could be assigned for a specific favor, a reward for services, or simply sold as a fund-raiser.

From the 800s, indulgences were in written form, issued for both the dead or living. The Council of Trent in 1567 affirmed the right to issue indulgences. Some clergy also sold “warranties” against punishments for future sins.

Inquisition

An “inquiry” instituted to combat heresy. Conditions or regulations include, but are not limited to the following:

- Disregarded common Roman law

- Prosecuted by a judge or judges

- Administration was more often by Dominicans and Franciscans.

- Accused was required to swear an oath to tell the truth. If one refused, there was an immediate finding of guilt.

- Witnesses were never identified to the victim or subjected to his/her cross-examination.

- Regulations varied as to the type and intensity of forceful urging or torture. The term, *Put to the Question*, became a popular pseudonym.

- Once condemned, the individual would be turned over to civil authorities for further torture, mutilation, or execution. At times, lesser penalties were administered to cooperative victims.

- The beginnings were in Germany in 1231 and established in every Roman Catholic country.

- The Spanish Inquisition seems to be the most recognizable. It was established through appeal in 1478 by Queen Isabella I and King Ferdinand II of the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon to Pope Sixtus IV. In 1483, they appointed their exclusive Inquisitor General, a Dominican, Tomas de Torquemada.

- Records are not sufficiently documented to establish an accurate total number of victims. But in addition to the thousands murdered for heresy and a variety of other religious crimes, a minimum of 100,000 women, condemned as witches, were drowned or burned at the stake. (refer: Curia, Supreme Congregation of the Holy Office)

- In 2004, Pope John Paul II asked that the Church be forgiven for the atrocities committed by this world-wide practice.

Imprimatur

Latin for “Let it be printed”, this acknowledgment, including the local bishop’s name, will appear in the beginning or the end of many books. The work has received ecclesiastical censorship and approval, containing nothing contrary to established faith and morals. Therefore, the publication may be purchased and read by a Catholic.

India

(-48) Hindu-Muslim war of 1947-48 killed over 1 million. Religious and social prejudices still prevail. In the Hindu caste hierarchy, the lowest are Dalit, the “untouchables”. In an effort to boost their life-style, the Dalit are allowed 15 percent of India’s federal jobs. However, any Dalit caught abandoning Hinduism for Christianity or Islam, is fired.

Internment

In 1942, by Executive Order 9066, President Roosevelt initiated the detention of 122,000 United States citizens of Japanese descent at inland fenced and guarded Relocation Centers. Being “of 1/16th Japanese blood” was sufficient to be categorized as one of these potential traitors. If any of these prisoners attempting to flee could not be immediately stopped, they were subject to the guards’ rifle fire. Unlike many other citizens who had recently expressed public support of and pride in the aggressive actions of their European homelands’ leadership, there had simply been no such documented action by the Japanese-Americans.

Islam

“There is no god but God, and Muhammad is his prophet.” (Or “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet.”).

The Muslim *Shahadah* proclaims “I bear witness that there is no god but al-Lah and that Muhammad is his Messenger.”

In the early years, many Church leaders considered Islam to be just another Christian heresy, especially because of some 100 references to Jesus in *al-Qur’an* (aka *Quran* and *Koran*).

In 632, after the death of Muhammad ibn Abdullah, the majority elected a loyal companion, Abu Bakr, caliph (successor). A vocal minority dissented, demanding that the leadership was to have been passed on to Muhammad’s cousin and son-in-law, Ali ibn Abi Talib. These dissenters became known as Shiah-Ali (or Shiis), Partisans of Ali. Followers of Muhammad’s Sunna (Tradition) became known as Sunnis (Sunni). Ali later became the fourth caliph. In 680, Ali’s son, Hussein (Hussain) and 72 others were massacred after challenging Islam’s sixth Caliph. Hussein became the Shiat’s (Shiite’s) symbol of resistance to tyranny.

After one hundred years or so, the Imam, al-Shafi’i, remodeled the faith by placing almost all undertakings under specifics in the law (Shariah).

Islamic doctrine includes a belief in angels and demons as well as predestination to Heaven or Hell.

The Islamic religion refers to apostasy (Irtidad) in *al-Qur’an* citing severe punishment in afterlife.

[Some particulars: Even the *Hadith* calls for the murder of an apostate. Extremists carry this concept further. Non-believers are given “opportunity” to embrace Allah. Denying that, they deserve death. For hundreds of years, enslaving thousands of Christians has been an Islamic jihad. It became a way of life for sea-travelers on the Mediterranean as well as in any under-protected village or town on the conquest-route of the Muslims.

In the latter part of the last century and now, the world is faced with a force that uses violence to suppress any activity or peoples they consider to be “un-Islamic”. They kill and mutilate indiscriminately, as if it were their legitimate privilege and right, without the least concern for anyone other than, perhaps, their own leadership. A number of the more recognized radical forces that seem contaminated by this perverse ideology, embracing terror include, but most certainly are not limited to: *al Qaeda*, *Front for the Defense of Islam (FPI)*, *Hamas*, *Hezbollah*, Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (Iran), the Muslim Brotherhood and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Islamophobia is the latest term for fear of even asking honorable Muslims to condemn the radical’s violence.

Abdurrahman Wahid, the spiritual leader of the Islamic organization, *Nahdlatul Ulama*, is one of the very few who has been willing to criticize the terrorists.]

[Editor's note: "Allah's will" is but a pitiful excuse for this insane abomination.

Appeasement by those espousing "political correctness" historically has never worked, be it applied to terrorists, dictators or anyone killing in the name of purification, convenience, or religious values.] (refer: Elaboration-Judaism-Akedat)

Allahu Akbar

God is greater.

Ayatollah

A major Shiite clergyman. Means, "sign of God".

Believers (Followers) Islam's current world number is approximately 1,283,424,000. In the United States, it is about 4,655,000.

Dhimmah

A treaty with non-Muslims often preventing their death. Those Dhimmi were subservient, degraded, and a much more highly taxed populace. They were also compelled to pay *jizya* (a protection tax). In some cases, non-Muslims wishing to be converted were required to secure adoption by a willing Arab tribe member.

Eid al-Fitr

Festival of fast-breaking marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Fatwa

Ruling or pronouncement on Islamic law made by a mufti which could easily include death sentences on anyone.

Figih

Any Islamic jurisprudence not covered in *al-Qur'an* or *Sunnah*.

Five Pillars

Are faith, daily (or canonical) prayers, *zakat* (charity for the poor), fasting, and *Hajji* [or *Hahj*] (pilgrimage)

Hadith (see * below)

The sayings of the Prophet Muhammad ibn Abdullah

Hajj

Pilgrimage to Mecca

Hezb Allah

Parties of God

Hijra

The beginning of the Islamic age

Holy Cities

In ranking, they are: Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem and Harar in Ethiopia.

Ilm

According to Shiites, only Imams possess this "knowledge" of God.

Imam

An Islam leader Considered by Shiites as *bab* (gateway) to God and descendants of Muhammad's son-in-law, Ali.

Irhabi

Terrorists

Irtidad

Apostasy in the *al-Qur'an*

Ishmael

Abraham's son, Isaac's half brother, who was to possibly be sacrificed. (refer: Elaboration-Judaism-Isaac)

Islam

Submission/Surrender (to God)

Jihad

Defined as struggle or striving. Islamic law specifies "...The gates of *jihad* are open until the Day of Judgment, and he who denies this is an infidel or one who abandons his religion." This "struggle" in the way of Allah often refers to military actions against non-Muslims or even fellow Muslims with whom there may be disagreement.

Mahdi

Messiah

Marjaa al Taqlid

(Source of Emulation) This is the Shiites' highest theological authority. There is dispute in the Arab world as to who currently holds that title.

Mufti

Interpreter of Islamic law who issues *fatwa*

Mullah

Islamic clergy knowledgeable in *al-Qur'an* and *Hadith*

Muslim

One who surrenders (to God).

Prosperous Justic Party (PKS)

Major ultra-radical Islamic party, especially active in Indonesia.

Sahwa

(awakening) A religious movement that disputes *Wahhabi* orthodoxy.

Salaam alaykum

"Peace be with you."

Shia

(also referred to as Shii or *Shiah-ali* or *Shiis*) The party of Ali ibn Abi Talib, Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law, this group represents approximately 15 percent of the world's Muslim population.

Shariah (see * below)

(the road to water) The sacred law of Islam

Sunnah (Sunni)

Religious practices and spiritual activities that had been established by Muhammad and, in some cases, Abraham. An estimated 85 percent of the world's Muslims are *Sunni*.

Takkiye (Taquyya)

One never owes the truth to an Infidel.

Twelfth Imam

Shiites hold that the *Mahdi* (Messiah), the Twelfth Imam, is Muhammad ibn Husayn (Hasan), a five-year-old who fell into a well or disappeared circa 873. A barrier, called *Bab-al Ghayba* (gate of Occultation) protects him. Tradition holds that this *Mahdi* will return as early as 2008, marking the outset of Armageddon, beginning total conversion and the end of the world. He is also referred to as the “Hidden Imam”.

Wahhabi This religious movement directs that all Muslims must obey their kings (or political leaders), God, and the teachings of the Muhammad ibn Abdullah as interpreted by the Imam. Some consider Wahhabism to be an extremist form of Sunni Islam.

**Hadith and Shariah*

Are the traditions in which some of the most violent Islamic injunctions are based.

James (Jacob)

Numerous New Testament scholars hold that James was the brother of Jesus.

Jebel Haroun

Arabic for Mount Aaron, tradition holds that Moses’ brother Aaron died and was buried in this Jordan location. Initially Jews and later, Christians venerated this place until the Muslim invasion, circa 635. Although reoccupied briefly in the 12th century, Saladin expelled them again circa 1187. Presently, after 800 years, Muslims allow Christians and some Hasidic Jews limited visitation.

Jesus (Yeshua) of Nazareth

His *hypothesized* immediate family sourced from a variety of early Christian writings include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

Mother-Mary (Miryam) Her parents were Anna and Joachim.

Earth Father-Joseph (Yosef).

Brothers-Jacob (James), Joseph (Yosef), Jude (Judah), and Simon.

Sisters are mentioned in gospels Mark 6:3 and Matthew 13:56, but not named.

The Apocryphal Gospels name them Assia and Lydia.

Cousin-John (the Baptizer). He is the only identified child of Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle Zachary.

John Mark

This is one name. There are many references to John, Mark, as well as John Mark.

The very common name(s) in translations from Greek is “John”, while from the Hebrew, it is “Mark”.

Judaism

This is the world's oldest continuous religion honoring a singular supreme being. After unsuccessful rebellions against Romans and the second destruction of their Temple, *Diaspora* (permanent living in exile) began.

Presently, Judaism's world population is in excess of 14,990,000. In the United States they number approximately 5,290,000.

Aggadah

Non-legal section of rabbinic writings

Akedat

Called the *Binding of Isaac*, it appraises Abraham's submission to God. His actions and the results are regarded as a warning against fanaticism. Contrary to some other faiths, this teaches that God never wants the death of humans to be a sign of faith.

bar mitzvah

Jewish ceremony for boys of attaining the age of religious responsibility; 13-years. The words translate as "sons of Commandment" or "belonging to Commandment".

bat mitzvah

Jewish ceremony of a girl's coming of age, usually 12 years old. The phrase also means "daughters of", or "belonging to Commandment".

Chabad-Lubavitch

Movement was initially based on Russian Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov's teachings of Jewish practices and understandings (c. 1734). In 1781, broadening of the concept took place by Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Lubavitch, Russia and later, by the seven leaders (Rabbes). This branch of Hasidism supports an in-depth study and contemplation of all relevant Jewish faith, ritual and tradition topics. "Chabad" is a Hebrew acronym of words meaning wisdom, comprehension and knowledge. [Editor's note: Translation of the Russian word "Lubavitch" means city of brotherly love.]

Congregation Types:

- *Conservative* is considered as middle-path; cautionary, while adapting to the times.
- *Orthodox* follows strict adherence to Jewish law and Talmudic principles.
- *Reform* seems to be more investigational. Their 1895 publication of the *Union Prayer Book* defined several positions, including a rejection of Zionism, objections to kosher dietary laws, replacement of "synagogue" with "temple" and the translation of many Hebrew prayers into the vernacular. In 2007, the 3rd edition called *Mishkan T'filah* was released. Those of classical Reform Judaism consider the latest revisions to be somewhat back-stepping. Others find some of the new options more reflective of today's world.
- *Reconstructionist* is the newest type (1955); professes to much of traditional Judaism while pursuing contemporary social, intellectual and spiritual life. They hold that Jewish law (halahah) is not necessarily binding.

Conversos

Jews of the Iberian Peninsula (Portugal and Spain) who had been baptized Catholic.

Essenes

Believe that everything is pre-ordained by God. There is no freewill.

Holocaust

Jews often refer to it by the Hebrew "Shoah". European Catholics and other Christians have been accused of complacency, if not complicity, amid the Holocaust.

Isaac

Abraham's son, Ishmael's half brother, who was possibly to be sacrificed. (refer: Elaboration-Islam-Ishmael)

Judaeans (aka Jews)

Name originally identified members of the Kingdom of Judah.

Kabbalah (Tradition)

This is Jewish mystical contemplation which includes the Zohar (Radiance).

Karaism

Members challenged rabbinic Judaism. They believed only in the Bible.

Mehitzah

This is a divider initially used in the Second Temple of Jerusalem to segregate women during worship. In the 1900s, Reform and Conservative congregations began to allow families to sit together. Recently, the Orthodox Union, which oversees hundreds of synagogues in the United States, required the mehitzah.

Mitzvah

Means Commandment

Nineteenth Benediction against Heretics

Circa 85, this order excluded Christians from synagogues because of their belief in two God-powers (Father and Son).

Pharisees

While generally holding a middle-road position, they asserted that everything that transpires is the will of God. Humans have freewill and may choose good or evil. This theory is generally accepted.

Resurrection

This is far from clear in Judaism. Generally, one should evaluate and consider three stages: The afterlife, the messianic era on earth, and then, a general resurrection of the soul.

Sadducees

Believed in a god who was completely removed from active involvement in the world. People have absolute control over their lives. There is no afterlife as well as no resurrection of the dead; body or soul.

Sefiroth

Describing the ten parts of the divine world.

Sephardi

Original term applied to Jews living in the Iberian Peninsula.

Shavu'ot (weeks)

Pentecost is to be held seven weeks after Passover. The holiday celebrates God bestowing the Torah.

Sheol

According to Hebrew scripture, apparently, there was no heaven or hell. On dying, a person, good or bad arrived at Sheol, the abode of all the dead (*the nether world*).

There was no activity among the dead, no emotions and no contact whatsoever.

[Editor's note: Even stretching the interpretation of Jewish texts could one find there to be even a hint of a punishing place like the Christian's Hell.]

The Book of Wisdom, by an unknown author from Alexandria, Egypt, appeared circa 95 BC. Chapter 3: 10 reflects, "The wicked shall receive a punishment to match their thoughts." There is no documentation of a well-spring of acceptance or depth of understanding of the proclamation as it might have applied to retribution in the afterlife.

Shivah (aka to sit Shivah)

A traditional seven days of mourning.

Shma Y'isreal

The Lord your God is One, no others before Him.

Shmita

A sabbatical year, every seven years, directing all those who grow crops in the biblical Land of Israel to let their fields, vineyards, and orchards lie fallow for twelve months. [Some particulars: The latest *Shmita* began at the start of the Hebrew calendar year 5768 (September 2007). To circumnavigate this law, many Jewish owners merely sell their properties for a year to non-Jews who are responsible for plantings, care and harvest, but not ownership, of the crops.]

Synagogue (assembly)

In early Jewish history, this was a meeting place and not necessarily one for prayer. Only after the 2nd destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem did organized vocal prayer become a substitute for traditional animal sacrifice.

Talmud

Rabbinic discussions of Jewish law

Tannain

Early Jewish teachers who edited the *Mishnah* (refer; Elaboration-Religious Documents-Talmud Bauli)

Temple

The first temple was built by Solomon in 964 BC; destroyed by the Chaldeans in 586 BC. The second was constructed by Zerubbabel in 515 BC. Roman emperor Vespasian conquered Jerusalem in 70 AD. He destroyed the Temple, renamed the City, Aelia Capitolana. Vespasian forced Jews out of the City.

Turim (Four Rows)

Book written by Rabbi Jacob ben Asher, circa 1475, detailed all of Judaism's laws into four categories; prayer and festivals, dietary laws, family, and civil law.

Liberation Theology

Holds that market-driven economics is evil. A socialistic system is the only salvation. It embraces Marxism, even considering violence appropriate when necessary. In 1979 Pope John Paul II ordered El Salvador's Archbishop Oscar Romero to cease supporting the Cuban-armed terrorists. He referred to Romero as a Communist, practicing Liberation Theology. Romero was murdered in 1980.

Luther's Reflections

A major work is the collection of dialogue with his students entitled, *The Table Talk of Martin Luther* (aka *Colloquia Mensalia*). Published in 1566, twenty years after his death, it covers more than 45 subjects, ranging from God's wrath to politics. Quotations include: "Antichrist is the pope and the Turk (used to define anyone of the Islamic faith) together;" and "The Jews are the most miserable people on earth."

On gender equality Martin Luther reflected, "Girls begin to talk and to stand on their feet sooner than boys because weeds always grow up more quickly than good crops."

He also said, "Men have broad shoulders and narrow hips, and accordingly they possess intelligence. Women have narrow shoulders and broad hips....a wide fundament to sit upon." (These are qualities enabling the woman to keep house and bear and raise children.) Luther is credited with the phrases, "Her place is in the house."; "No good ever comes out of female domination."; "God created Adam master and lord over all living creatures, but Eve spoiled all."

Luther's *Table Talk* excerpts also included, "a Jew is wicked because he is a Jew, a woman is wicked because she is a woman."

Lutheranism

The three major groups in the U.S. are: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (4,990,000 members), Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (2,500,000 members) and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (400,000 members).

Over the years, the Lutheran faith had become the official religion of several countries, including Denmark, Norway and Sweden (which removed the designation in 2000).

Manichaeism

Founded circa 242 by Mani (Manichaeus); not a person's name but, rather, a title, meaning "the illustrious".

This is a form of religious Dualism. It holds two opposing creative principles, one good and the other evil. Manichaeism rejects the Old Testament and considers that infant baptism is inadequate. Salvation may only be obtained through pure reasoning.

Marcion

(d. c.160) In 140, this philosopher wrote a Canon of Scriptures which included 11 of the 13 Paul's letters and the Gospel of Luke. He authored *Antithesis*.

After a failed attempt to secure the position of Bishop of Rome (c. 142), Marcion split with Church leadership. He maintained that the Gospels were merely a collection of thoughts of the Apostles and their followers. He was condemned by both Justin Martyr (110-165) and Irenaeus of Lyon (120-202).

Marcionites

Named after Marcion, members followed Paul's idea of salvation to all people in spite of Jewish law. Jesus' teachings compared to the laws in Jewish scripture were so dissimilar that there must have been two gods.

The true God, that one of the New Testament, had nothing to do until Jesus was sent to save humanity from the god of Judaism.

Jesus was not a flesh and blood Jew, but, rather, a spirit.

Mary of Magdala (Magdalene)

Her birthplace was two miles north of Tiberias on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee. The fact that she is identified by home-town location suggests both her financial and marital independence.

Mary was referred to by Saint Augustine as *Apostola Apostolorum* (the Apostle to the Apostles). She had been mentioned 13 times in the New Testament. Circa 120, there was an account, called *The Gospel of Mary*, which vividly described her as a leader to whom the resurrected Jesus had appeared in a vision, suggesting, at the very least, equal footing with the other Apostles.

Melito of Sardis

In the latter 2nd century, his anti-Semitic teachings included using the Passover story, "This is the Lamb (Christ) who was sacrificed. You denied the one who served you, who cured your ills. Why did you do this, oh Israel? An extraordinary murder took place. God was destroyed by the right hand (Jews) of God."

Later, as the number of Christians became more significant (about the 4th and 5th centuries), they adopted the policy that seeing as the Jews rejected God and therefore belong to a false religion, punishment is obligatory.

Methodist Religion

(Methodism) Begun by Anglican ministers, John and Charles Wesley. They believe that faith alone is the basis for justification and the Bible is the sole rule of faith. They reject purgatory, the veneration of saints and Calvinistic predestination. In the United States, the seven major Methodist churches' membership exceeds 12,390,000.

Metropolitan

In some Catholic and some Episcopal churches this is the title given to an archbishop who has authority over other bishops. In Eastern and other Orthodox churches it is a bishop, ranking just below the patriarch, who serves as head of an ecclesiastical province.

Monophysitism

This heresy, circa 410, claimed that there is only one nature in Christ, which is the Divine. In 451, the Council of Chalcedon condemned the premise.

Monotheism

The belief in the existence of only one god.

Mormons

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) founded by Joseph Smith. He taught that the American Indians were descendants of Jewish prophets who had traveled to the Western Hemisphere between 650 and 600 BC. Their doctrines were written in hieroglyphics on gold tablets.

Circa 350, prophet / historian Mormon and his son. Moroni, interpreted and abridged them.

Smith asserted that in 1830, he translated these with the assistance of Urim and Thummim (perhaps angels). The gold tablets were subsequently lost. This data became *The Book of Mormon*. [Editor's note: Other sources indicate that Moroni was an angel and the sequence of events differs slightly.]

Women may not serve in leadership roles, but Blacks have enjoyed that privilege since 1978.

[Editor's note: Even though some mainstream Christians question the Mormons' Christianity, differences in theology may not be sufficient reason to denounce other believers in Jesus Christ.]

Their leadership structure includes a bishop who is in charge of a Ward (congregation).

The president of a Stake is responsible for the operations of several Wards.

Gordon Hinckley is the current president and prophet of the Church.

Present membership is 13 million worldwide; with 5.8 million in the U.S.

National Leadership

Throughout this work because of space limitations, those legitimately elected, as well as dictators, royalty, and other leaders, are not all included. Rather, only some are noted due to their impact on historical events.

New Law (of Christ)

A term used since circa 400, redefines Jewish-Christian practices as they applied to Christians. New Law implementation became more conspicuous later on.

As an example, the Council of Trent (1545-63) saw it necessary to define or re-define as Sacraments such practices as Holy Orders, Matrimony and Penance (Confession).

To validate these definitions, members sighted Gospel accounts and early Christian narratives. Penance (Confession) was of much concern, especially in light of Martin Luther's stand on forgiveness by faith alone

Opus Dei

(Latin for work of God) This Catholic organization's current membership estimated at 87,000.

Orthodox

Term used by Greek Christians to distinguish those that hold "correct" doctrines.

Ottoman Empire

from *Synopsis of the Reign of the Roman Catholic Pontiffs*

Compiled by J. Alan O'Connor | copyright © 2007-2008 J. Alan O'Connor

www.reign-of-pontiffs.org

(Muslim) The political and religious leadership legally defined Infidels and imposed higher taxes with fewer rights. “Until some later date, and only through Allah’s grace and directive, might a Christian become equal to a Muslim,” was an Ottoman Mandate that could explain away any prejudicial behavior.

This opportunity for equality with a Muslim was never, of course, an option for any Jew. From 1895, the “Bloody Sultan” used massacre, the culture of violence, as a cleansing tool.

In 1908, the “Young Turks” assumed control. By 1912, they moved to State-operated genocide, claiming Turkey for the Turks. “The world will tremble.”

Between 1915 and 1917 mass-murder of the Armenian Christians took place. (refer: Elaboration-Armenian Christian Genocide)

By 1923, after the genocidal elimination of the Armenians and with support by France and Germany, the Young Turks formed a westernized Turkish government.

Order of Knights Templar(s)

Founded by Hugh de Payns, it was approved by Pope Honorius II (c. 1126). The group was originally called “The Poor Knights of Christ of the Temple of Solomon” (or of Jerusalem).

Observing a monastic way of life, their two Holy Orders were Hospit (Hospitalers) and Military. They offered escort-protection and health services to pilgrims on their way from Jaffa to Jerusalem and oversaw a chain of castles.

In 1307, Pope Clement V punished the order and cooperated with King Philip IX of France in their suppression. However, trials in Rome, conducted at the Pope’s direction and lasting through 1312, did find the Knights Templar to be guilty of a variety of immorality issues but innocent of all heresy charges.

Papacy

The list of popes as indicated in “During the Reign of...” also includes those antipopes who had been legitimately elected (or claimed to have been) but were later invalidated; their names appear in brackets. It is logical to assume that since power is fluid, belonging to the surviving power structure, i.e. papal successors, authenticity is subjective. Also included are the original names of some of the Pontiffs.

The actual numbers vary dependent upon the source and in some cases, include reoccurring reigns such as Benedict IX. So, the count ranges between 264 and 267. Approximately 39 antipopes must also be considered.

Nationalities of 237 of the total include 77 Roman, 100 Italian, 15 Jews, 14 French, 12 German, 6 Syrian, 3 Sicilian, 2 each Sardinian, Spanish, African, 1 each English, Dutch, Polish, and Portuguese. Of general interest, four popes had abdicated, at least four were murdered, five imprisoned, and one each were openly assassinated, deposed, and died in the midst of battle.

The foremost papal families include Colonna, de Borja (Borgia, originally Spanish), de’Medici, della Rovere, and Orsini.

The Borgia's included Pope Alexander VI and his son, Cesare, who specialized in faith-based poisoning. Machiavelli had singled out Cesare as the model for his work, *The Prince*. Pope Alexander appointed wealthy men as bishops and cardinals. Many were invited to dinner and served a dry wine, laced with arsenic. Their wealth, by Church law, then reverted to their host. A popular saying at that time was, "I enjoyed the opportunity to have dined with Alexander", the past tense affirming survival.

Roman Pontiff was not adopted until approximately 370 under Pope Damasus. The term "pontiff" means "bridge".

After the election of a new pope, each cardinal is required to pledge homage, loyalty and obedience.

As of the end of 2006, there were 193 cardinals in the Roman Catholic Church. There are specific age requirements established for their voting rights.

Some confusion occurs in pope identity, for example Deusdedit I and III. The years 615 and 617 are mentioned in three sources, but omitted in two others. And there is no mention, anywhere, of Deusdedit, number two.

Some observations on the official papal succession list:

John XIV (983-84)

John XV (985-96)

no John XVI (997-98), as he was an antipope

John XVIII (1003-09)

John XIX (1024-32)

no John XX

John XXI (1276-77)

John XXII (1316-34)

no John XXIII (1410-15) as he was an antipope . So in 1958 (-63) Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli choose that name and number.

Papal Bull

(Latin, *bullā*) Initially a lead seal, with pope's name, etc, attached to papers proving authenticity. Circa 1410, Papal Bull began to be identified as an official composition or letter.

Papal Election

"Les anuncio una gran alegria. Tenemos papa."-"I announce to you a great joy. We have a Pope." Another means of proclamation is, "Habenus papa".

Papal Flag

The Triple Crown (*Tiara*) marks the pope as the father of princes and of kings, guide of the world, and vicar upon earth of Christ Jesus, our Savior. The two keys represent the power to bind and the power to loose (sins). Presently the colors are gold and white.

Papal Infallibility

Since 1870, Roman Catholic Church holds that a pope can not err while speaking *ex cathedra* (from the chair) in defining a doctrine regarding faith and morals. Infallible information is considered as divinely revealed dogma. Qualifications that must be met include: The pope is teaching in an official capacity. The subject includes only that which may be categorized as one of faith or morals. There must be evidence that the pope specifically intends to address that issue. It must be clear within the contents of the declaration that it is to be applied to the whole Church.

Parousia

This Greek word for presence is used to describe Christ's Second Coming and the final judgment of humankind. After the second destruction of the Jewish Temple at Jerusalem in the year 70, Christians slowly began to realize that Jesus' return was not necessarily imminent.

Parthenogenesis

Jesus' virginal conception by Mary was discussed in 451 at Emperor Marcian's Fourth Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon.

In 649, at Pope Martin's Council in the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the Virgin birth of Jesus was finally defined as "placed on high" in this case, by God.

Paul

Some historians believe that Paul spent three years analyzing the effects of conversion and his role in the new Jewish-Christian sect.

Barnabas (aka *Judas Barsabaas*) was his mentor in Antioch and in fact, took Paul along to Cyprus (Barnabas' hometown).

Chronological highlights include: Paul's conversion in 37; first visit to Jerusalem in 37; to Tarsus from 37-43; at Antioch, 43-44; second visit to Jerusalem in 44 or 45; first mission, 45-49; third visit to Jerusalem, 49 or 50; second mission 50-53; fourth visit to Jerusalem 53; third mission, 53-57; fifth visit to Jerusalem and arrest, 57; to Rome (after release) in 59; captivity in Rome, 60-62; various travels, 62-66; second arrest in Rome, 66; martyrdom, 67.

Recent excavations under *Saint Paul Outside the Walls* basilica in Rome appear to have located his skeletal remains.

Paul did not author the *Letter to the Hebrews*. And he is not mentioned as such. Even the composition is completely different from Paul's style. Scholar Origen believed it to be written by a student of Paul. Authorship is also credited to Clement of Rome (c. 95), the writer(s) of Luke's Gospel and of the Acts, or even Barnabas. Since the year 400, the Roman Church upheld it to be Paul's work. Martin Luther believed it to be Apollos' (c. 96). Calvin thought it as Luke's or Clement's.

Paul's *First Letter to the Thessalonians* is considered to be the earliest piece of Christian literature (c. 49). The Second Letter was not authored by Paul.

The various letters to Timothy, Bishop of Ephesus and Titus were written either by Paul, a secretary (perhaps Luke), or by an anonymous writer who, during the early second century, was compiling traditional information about Paul's life.

It's generally held that Paul authored seven of the thirteen letters attributed to him.

Paul often spoke of his anger with the Jews. He was flogged at synagogues. He said, "Five times I suffered 40 lashes minus one". [Editor's note: Many Jews considered 40 lashes to be excessive punishment.]

As both Jesus and Paul preached the impending end of the world, there was no early establishment of church and clergy. Since Paul viewed Jesus' resurrection as the first sign, his approach to group worship was charismatic, run by and with the individual's God-given talents and gifts. There was no formal governance. Paul strongly believed that each believer had received the power to know God's will. Their talents included prophecy, healing, speaking in tongues, teaching and charity. All members were to be treated equally.

However, there is first evidence of the male dominance trend as still carried on by the Roman Catholic authority, in Paul's *Letter to the Ephesians*. Women are "enjoined to submit to their husbands as the Church submits to Christ."

Later, any individual equality gave way to governing by clergy as seen in pastoral letters to Timothy and the subsequent development of pastor and/or bishop positions.

Paulist

Supporter of the contributions made by Saint Paul and his writings. Influenced by people like Marcion (d. c. 160), these epistles (or letters) enjoy prominent status in the New Testament.

Pelagianism

A heresy denying the necessity of unmerited Divine aid (grace) for salvation. It was condemned by Augustine of Hippo and in 431, by the Council of Ephesus.

Petrine

Doctrines associated with Peter's name or characteristic of Peter.

Polytheism

The belief in the existence of more than one god.

Protestant Churches

These include but, are not necessarily limited to the Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Quaker.

Quaker consists of three main organizations: Evangelical Friends International, Friends General Conference, and the Friends United Meeting. A smaller group is Conservative Friends.

John Newman, an Anglican priest and, later, a Catholic cardinal defined, "...U.S. Anglicanism (is) English-style Protestantism, and not a branch of historic Christian orthodoxy... as are both Catholicism and the Orthodox Eastern Christian Churches..."

Today's Anglican Communion confederation consists of approximately 78,745,000 members in some 38 member-churches. The Most Reverend Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, is the spiritual head of the Anglican Communion. The Protestant Episcopal Church, with approximately 2,320,000 members, represents the Anglican Communion in the U.S. Differences over a variety of "essential theology" issues have resulted in a split of more than 450 of the 7,700 American Episcopal congregations from the global Anglican Communion. Instead, they have received oversight from various African bishops.

The term Protestant does not apply to some other popular religious sects such as the Christian Scientists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons or an Orthodox church.

Protestant Reformation

Generally, there were two movements to be considered in the early years. One is referred to as Magisterial, a somewhat cooperative exchange by theologians such as Calvin, Luther, and Zwingli. Each addresses reform within the teachings of the Catholic tradition. The other, and a much more extreme group, was identified as the Radical Reformers those prone to reject most anything offered by major Church Councils (Nicaea I and II, Ephesus, and Constantinople I, II, and III).

One example among many deals with limbo. Ulrich Zwingli said, "All elect children who die in infancy are saved, baptized or no, whether pagan or Christian." Luther and John Calvin did not subscribe to that theology. Calvin was also a proponent of predestination.

The *Westminster Confession*, Chapter X, Section 3, states, "Elect infants, dying in infancy, are regenerated and saved by Christ." In 1903, with the establishment of The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and in agreement with Orthodox Eastern churches, formerly concurred with dozens of past theologians in opposition to limbo, publishing their complete agreement with the aforementioned Chapter X.

Sola Scriptura (by scripture alone). Protestantism holds that "the Bible as God's written words is clear to the rational reader and should be the only source of Christian doctrine." Luther said, "A simple layman, armed with Scripture, is greater than the mightiest pope without it." Generally, *Sola Scriptura* contrasts Catholic and Orthodox Eastern Christian churches that traditionally hold that theirs is the authority for this spiritual interpretation.

The Catholic Church did react to the Protestant Reformation in what is occasionally called the Counter Reformation. The Vatican reaffirmed doctrine, expanded missionary activities, and addressed clergy's ethical and moral issues.

Presbyterian Churches

The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. was formed in 1958 by the merging of the northern United Presbyterian Church of North America with the southern Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

Other Presbyterian sects include: The Cumberland, The Evangelical, The Presbyterian Church in America, and The Reformed.

Protocols of the Elders of Zion

In 1905 author Sergei Nilus published an anti-Semitic forgery and hoax, which details a secret Jewish conspiracy for world domination. [Editor's note: This "handbook for hatred" was and continues to be a source for all those terrorists who must blame their own inadequacies on the actions of someone else.]

Ravenna

City located between Florence and Venice, Italy, it was used as headquarters for some emperors, kings, and popes.

Religion

The term, as used throughout this work, originates from the Latin word, *Religio*. It applies to a piety or faith in God as well as ritual ceremonies.

Early Christians could be determined to have true or false religion, depending upon which standards were applied, and by whom. A more stable meaning of the term religion as a system of beliefs or doctrine developed in the early 1600s.

Religious Documents and Definitions

The scriptures, holy books, and other writings, whose authorship is often subjective, provide a glimpse of religion and theology.

In modes of the spiritual, theological language addresses prayer while religious language involves praying.

These documents and definitions include, but are not limited to:

Apocrypha

The 14 books of the Septuagint included in the Vulgate (Bible). Because they are not a part of early Hebrew Scriptures, Protestants consider them uncanonical. Eleven of these are accepted as Roman Catholic canon.

Buddhism, fundamentally an atheistic tradition, and Hindu although highlighted in this section, are not detailed in the *Synopsis*, as faiths are pre-Christianity.

Decretal

A papal document containing a ruling on a specific church discipline. Often there were forged decretals which may have defended papal or clergy rights, powers or authority. *Bulls* define rights and are of less magnitude.

Epistles (miscellaneous)

The *First Epistle of John* was by an unknown author approximately 85-90 AD, who probably was also involved in the composition of John's Gospel. His second and third epistles were likely written by an Elder of the Church at Ephesus.

Epistle of Jude This work seems to have been named after a relative of Jesus and not the apostle. It was probably authored circa 85 by a relative of James the Administrator. (refer: Year 49)

Epistles of Peter Pseudonymous works written circa 90 (First) and circa 120 (Second).

Gospels

Three general categories include:

The *Canonical Gospels* that appear in all ancient languages and are referred to in more than 5000 Greek manuscripts

The *Gnostic Gospels* that exist in only a very small number of manuscripts and in one language, Coptic, translated from the Greek.

The *Infancy Gospels* that are found in several languages and many manuscripts

Canonical Gospels share certain characteristics: First, the Resurrection.

Secondly, each is in narrative form, with characters making decisions about Jesus' humanity. The third is emphasis on a combination of Judaism's teaching (the Gospels are Jewish stories). The fourth characteristic is of human suffering (Jesus' passion and death). Lastly, each reflects on the fact that Jesus exists in human form to do the will of the God-form. His is one of service.

While Canonical, Matthew, Mark and Luke are also Synoptic (agreeing frequently in subject and order). John's Gospel (Canonical), written approximately 100 AD, is not Synoptic. Matthew's and Luke's seem to have been inspired by Mark's that had been written in 63 or 70 by John Mark. For the most part, it is a record of Jesus' life as described by Peter.

Matthew (Levi) was the only apostle who wrote a Gospel. His was written at Antioch (Antionia), Syria. [Editor's note: There are several cities in the region called Antioch.] The Gospel of Matthew is distinctively anti-Jewish. For example, Christ is continually in conflict with the Pharisees.

The *Q Gospel* is derived from *Quarelle*, a German word for source. There is no evidence that the hypothetical Q ever existed. In spite of this, some maintain that if there were a Q, it could have been a resource used by the writer of Matthew and Luke. But if it ever did exist, Q did not contribute to Mark or John.

Translations of the earliest-known Canonical Gospel texts as compared to more popular versions show adaptations as well as additions. This is especially evident in Johannine manuscripts.

Gospel of Judas

This was probably first written in Greek and initially discredited by Irenaeus of Lyon (c. 180). The Coptic language manuscript believed to be from circa 220 to 340 was found in an Egyptian cave in 1970s. The fragmented pieces of papyrus

were assembled and translated by 2006. Although valuable as an historical “find”, its theological value continues to be debated.

The same person most likely wrote the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

Gnostic Gospels

Include, but are most certainly not limited to:

- Gospel of Mary (Magdalene) - Written in the early 100s, these “secrets” were given to her by Jesus and not shared with the male disciples.
- Gospel of Thomas- Written circa 110, this collection includes approximately 114 “quotes from Jesus” as a guideline to salvation. Some maintain that the source of the Coptic Thomas was Jesus’ brother. (see * below)
- Gospel of Peter
- Gospel of Phillip-sayings, metaphors, and esoteric (to be understood by only a few) arguments
- Gospel of Truth (c. 150)-discourses on deity and unity in which there may be some connection to John’s Gospel (the last one written).
- Apocryphon of James
- Apocryphal Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles
- Tripartite Tractate
- Apocryphon of John
- Acts of John (c. 150) - at times is called the Secret Book of John.
- Acts of Paul and Thecla
- Epistle of Barnabas (see ** below)
- Second Discourse of the Great Seth (c. 220) - Denies Christ’s crucifixion.

** Infancy Gospels*

Thomas’ as well as the circa 150, Proto-Gospel of James (aka *Protevangelium Jacobi*) discuss Mary, Joseph and Christ’s birth as well as stories (or “quotations”) during His early years.

**** Composition Errors** Typical cases are seen in Barnabas’ Epistles describing the values of Christianity over Judaism. It warns Christians to break away from Jews. They broke God’s covenant by taking the laws literally. Examples that the author offered are: “That not to eat pork really means don’t associate with people who act like swine, those who only come to God when they need something; don’t eat like a weasel; circumcision is unnecessary, only symbolic.”

Guru Granth Sahib (Adi Granth)

Holy Book of the Sikh religion.

Kells, Book of (aka Book of Columba)

An Irish manuscript containing the four Gospels, a fragment of Hebrew names, and the Eusebian Canons. The document has been dated as early as the sixth century, but many agree to circa 800.

King James Bible

This version was published in 1611. It became the approved text for the Church of England, and is used throughout the British Empire.

Nag Hammadi

Contains a portion of the Gnostic Scriptures. It is named after the location, in Egypt, where 52 treatises, mostly Gnostic writings, were found in 1945.

Memoirs of the Apostles

Term Justin Martyr used, circa 140, in describing the Gospels.

Midras

The frequently-used biblical root term which means to search, inquire, or interpret.

Other Christian writings are apostolic, including:

- *Shepherd of Hermas*- An apocalypse (revelation from God) wrote about the condition of the world at that time and a forecast.
- *Letters of Ignatius* by this Bishop of Antioch, an early martyr, substantiated bishop's authority and warned against false beliefs.
- *Papias* are stories of the lives of Jesus and the Apostles.
- *Didache* is a handbook for early Christian worship and ethical standards.
- *1 Clement* (c. 95), a letter to Corinthian Christians from Rome, addressed the removal of elders by new members. This correspondence bore early suggestions of clerical authority.
- A misnamed *2 Clement* was a sermon by an unknown author, praising Christ's blessings.
- *The Secret Gospel of Mark* found by Morton Smith, was said to be only for the most educated theological readers.

Peshitta (simple)

Christian translation (c. 4th century) of the Bible from the Hebrew into Syriac, an Aramaic dialect primarily of Mesopotamia. It contains all books of the New Testament except II Peter, II and III John, Jude, and Revelations of John. The oldest complete copy available is from 442.

Polyglot bibles

Contain scripture passages in several languages with different texts printed side-by-side.

Pseudepigrapha

The term used to describe works of the apostles that are known or suspected forgeries. Early Christians considered some of these authoritative.

Qur'an

(aka *al-Qur'an and Koran*) As the most holy book of Islam, Muslims believe that God's angel, Gabriel revealed His word to Muhammad. It contains some 114 chapters (without textual changes) of Allah's final revelations.

Roman Catholic Revised New American Bible

Consists of two parts:

The New Testament contains four gospels, Paul's thirteen Letters (aka Pauline Epistles), the letter to the Hebrews (not considered Paul's), three Epistles of John, two of Peter, one each of James, and Jude, the Book of Revelations (the Apocalypse of John) and the Acts of the Apostles.

The Old Testament contains some early Catholic books (Deuterocanonical) as well as the *Tanakh* of Judaism.

Septuagint LXX

Bible was produced during the 3rd century in Alexandria, Egypt. This was the first version in Greek. LXX refers to the 70 or so translators involved. Tradition holds that King Ptolemy II, who wanted the translation for the Library of Alexandria engaged six Jews from each of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. The Septuagint gave Diaspora (those removed from Israel) Jews who had lost understanding of their native tongue, an opportunity to study. Although used by Christians for many years, Jews ceased using this reference after a short time. The Septuagint Bible still serves the Greek Orthodox Church. There are many other Christian versions.

Sruti

A grouping of a variety of Hindu scriptures, including the *Four Vedas*. These teach sacrifice rituals, songs, magic, and hymns of praise. Hindu beliefs are also contained in the poem, *Mahabharata*.

Talmud Bauli

(Babylonian) From circa 700 (some deem even earlier) this was a final version of the *Mishnah* (to repeat or review) which developed about 200 AD.

The *Mishnah*, the code of Jewish law, contains six major and sixty-three minor units. It was a written collection of rabbinic discussions, edited by Rabbi Yehudah Ha-Nasi. Prior to the second destruction of the Temple in the year 70, there existed an oral system of the old teachings.

Tanakh

Judaism's three major books contained herein are: the *Torah* (faith issues in the first five books, including 613 commandments), the *Nevi'im* (prophets), and the *Ketuvim* (Proverbs, Psalms, and history).

The 46 books of the Old Testament may generally be divided into the following groups:

- The Pentateuch (from the Greek *penta* for five and *teukhos*, which means implement) or Torah includes Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
- Historical Books containing sixteen
- Wisdom Books numbering seven
- Major Prophets in six books
- Minor Prophets composed of twelve books.
- *Major* The term meant to define books containing more themes and length than the *Minor* category.
- Many Protestant versions do not include the books, Judith, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, Tobit and at times, Sirach.
- Orthodox Eastern churches have added books named 1 Edras, 3 and 4 Maccabees.

Targum

This is the name given to a variety of translations of the Jewish Bible into Aramaic; compiled during the first few centuries, AD.

Tetramorph

The four-gospel canon in place by circa 160 and referred to by the writer, Irenaeus.

Tripitaka

This Buddhist canon is in three groups:

Vinaya Pitaka contains rules and practices.

Sutra Pitaka includes the Buddha's teachings.

Abhidhamma Pitaka organizes Buddha's principles of life.

Vulgate

In 405 AD., Jerome completed the translation of the *Septuagint* (a Greek version of the Old Testament) and the New Testament and Psalms from the original Hebrew and Greek into Latin.

Rite of Purification

Early Christian leaders adhered to the Hebrew law which forbade women, after childbirth, to be present in Temple or synagogue for 33 days (or 40) after the birth of a boy and 66 (or 80) days after a daughter. Pre-Vatican II, child baptisms in Church traditionally expected that mothers stay home. Few ever questioned this congregational aspect of Catholicism.

Roma Romani

Culture developed with migration circa 1000 out of India. By the 15th century, these migratory Roms suffered persecution throughout Europe and the Near East. They are commonly referred to as Gypsies. These people are multi-faith, adapting their spiritual life to that of neighbors. Primarily, among those who actively practice, there are Muslims, Orthodox Catholics and Christians and Roman Catholics.

Rosary

The four groups called Mysteries are: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous. Each contains five specifics. Pope John Paul II had added Luminous in 2002, which include Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, the Wedding at Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom, the Transfiguration, and the Institution of the Eucharist.

Tradition holds that the origin was an early practice of saying 150 *Hail Mary* prayers. Circa 1215, Dominic de Guzmán of the Dominican Order is credited with popularizing this prayer-form.

Santa Sede

(The Holy See*) or Stato della Citta del Vaticano (State of the Vatican City) is also referred to as The Vatican and the Vatican City State. As a part of the Lateran Accord of 1929, Pius XI agreed to recognize and support the Fascist government of Benito Mussolini. The Italian government also compensated the Vatican \$105 million. One-eighth the size of New York City's Central Park, the Vatican encompasses 108.7 acres. "See" is a diocese from Latin word, *sedes*, which means seat.

Schiavo

As a comatose patient, Theresa Schiavo's life was under her husband's control. Teri's parents and brother, who offered to care for her, had pleaded for the continuation of her life. In March of 2005, Judge George Greer, Pinellas-Pasco, Florida Circuit Court, upholding the request of her husband, ordered her death. This was accomplished by removal of a feeding tube and her subsequent 13 day-long starvation. The Vatican asserted that the death was "arbitrarily hastened and removal of the feeding tube was a violation of the principles of Christianity and civilization."

Simony

Traditional source is Simon, the Magician, who tried to buy miracles from apostles. It now includes the practice of buying or selling religious offices or indulgences. There are occasional references to *simonaic* popes.

Spinoza

(Baruch [Benedict] De Spinoza) Taught that knowledge of God is open to everyone, mind and body are modes of a single substance, and God cannot cause good or evil. By a curse, Spinoza was excommunicated from the Jewish faith.

Stigmatic

To date, of the dozens recorded, Saint Francis of Assisi is the single Stigmatic recognized by the Vatican with a Declaration of Authenticity. Padre Pio under

consideration to become the second such case. (The Stigmata are wounds resembling those of the crucified Christ.)

Unification Church

Founded in 1954 by Reverend Sun Myung Moon as the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity. Moon affirms that Christ had appeared to him when he was 15 years old directing that he complete the work that Jesus had begun on earth.

Unitarian (aka Universalist Association)

Following the teaching of Martin Callarius (c. 1527), it is not considered a Christian faith. The sect does not subscribe to the belief in the Trinity, or that Jesus is the Son of God.

Waldensians

Promoted preaching and poverty for all clergy. Considered papal theological dominance as restrictive and exclusive.

WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service)

Members had served in the U.S. Navy from the beginning of World War II.

Women in the early Church

Tradition holds that these and many others officiated at Home Churches. A few of the women who celebrated the Eucharist include:

Chloe of Ephesus, Junia, Lydia (one of Paul's converts whose home was used for worship), Martha of Bethany, sister of Lazarus, Mary of Magdela, Mary of Jerusalem (Mark's mother and Barnabas' aunt), Nympha of Laodicea, Phoebe (a deaconess or minister), Prisca of Corinth, Priscilla, who established the oldest Roman catacombs (died c. 98), Susanna, and Tabitha (aka *Dorcas*), who funded charitable groups and Home Churches.

Later, the formalizing of male-controlled Church authority brought a sense of misogyny and the subsequent disempowerment of women. Although some scholars may disagree, as early as the second century, there have been examples of Christian authorities discussing (much less even putting to question) the subjects, "do women have souls?", "are they inferior to men?" and "what is their place (or purpose) in religious faith."

Wollstonecraft, Mary

In her late 1700s book, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, she wrote, "Why is it required that women must act according to the will of another fallible being, answerable for their needs and conduct to a higher tribunal, who is liable to error? Authority regulates the religion of women, it is not necessary to explain the reasons for their belief, laying down precisely the tenets they are to believe. An individual's ideas on

change lead to fanaticism and absurdities.” Wollstonecraft also noted, “I do not wish them [women] to have power over men; but over themselves.”

Xenoglossia (aka *Zenolalai*)

This is the spontaneous gift of speaking in a previously unknown foreign language.