Study Guide

*DISCLAIMER: This is a STUDY GUIDE,* ***not*** *the Test. Therefore, this is meant to GUIDE you in your studying /preparation for the test. Anything discussed/completed in class is fair game for the test.*

1. What is the difference between Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, and Zealots?

*pharisees: well-educated religious leaders mainly concerned with keeping Jews faithful to the strict interpretation of the Law*

*sadducees: aristocratic ruling class, chief priests (The Sanhedrin) & elders of the community, believing in nothing else besides the Torah*

*scribes: interpreted & taught the Law*

*zealots: a rebellious group of militant Jews who viewed foreigners blasphemous against God*

1. List and explain the three worst emperors who persecuted Christians.

*nero: July 19th, 64AD, set fire to Rome b/c he wanted to rebuild the city. OBVIOUSLY, the Romans were not too happy when their city went up in smoke, so blamed the fire on the Christians & their God.*

*domitian: targeted “atheists” (Domitian’s definition: those who did not worship him as Dominus et Deus (“lord & god”)); punished Christians with a special tax or death*

*diocletian: responsible for “The Great Persecution” (reinstated emperor worship for all citizens; confiscated the property of Christians; destroyed churches & sacred books; banished them to hard labor; subjected them to a host of tortures; death penalty)*

1. What is apostasy?

*apostasy: the sin of denying one’s faith to avoid being killed*

1. Explain how the *Pax Romana* was both helpful and hurtful to the spread of Christianity.

*helpful: people were not afraid to be Christian (possibility of death was no more)*

*hurtful: people became compliance with their faith*

1. Who referred to themselves as *Pontifex Maximus*? Why?

*Constantine referred to himself as Pontifex Maximus due to viewing himself as “the greatest bridge-builder” bridging the gap b/w human and divine. This term was later adopted by the popes (“pontiff”).*

1. What is the significance of the Edict of Sophia? the Edict of Milan?

*edict of sophia: an edict of tolerance in favor of Christianity; Christianity was legalized in the eastern half of the Roman Empire*

*edict of milan: declaration allowing religious freedom in the Roman Empire in 313; NOT declaring Christianity as the empire’s official religion*

1. Who is the head of the Roman Catholic Church?

*Jesus Christ, Son of God*

1. What is the difference between a heresy and an orthodoxy?

*heresy: a belief, attitude, or teaching that is contrary to revealed truth, and to the Church’s doctrine of faith*

*orthodoxy: a doctrine, belief, attitude, or teaching that is consistent with revealed truth & with the Church’s doctrine of faith*

1. What is Arianism~~, Nestorianism, Monophysitism, and Pelagianism~~? Explain how it ~~each heresy~~ conflicted with the Church and how the Church resolved the heretical teaching.

*arianism:*

* *taught that only God the Father was immortal; proclaimed the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were separate and distinct*
* *contradicted the central Christian belief that God is one divine substance but 3 distinct Persons*
* *resolution:*
  + *doctrine of consubstantiality: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are of one Being*
  + *325 Constantine opens the Council of Nicaea*
    - *formulate a creed: The Nicene Creed*

1. What is an apologist? a Father of the Church?

*apologetic: 2nd-century writers who defended and explained Christianity to nonbelievers*

*father of the church: men who assisted Church members through their writings, teachings, and/or exemplary lives in deciding matters of Christian belief & practices*

1. How do we define “Church”?

* *Catholics who come together at the liturgy*
* *the local parish community, a fellowship of believers in Christ*
* *the universal community of believers*

1. What is grace?

*grace: our share in the divine life*

1. Explain how Jesus is the starting point of each of the seven sacraments.

*baptism: John the Baptist baptized Jesus.*

*reconciliation: Jesus suffered and died on the cross and was raised for the forgiveness of our sins.*

*holy communion/eucharist: Jesus said, “this is my body” and “this is my blood” at the Last Supper.*

*confirmation: Jesus said, “I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name-he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you.” (John 14:25-26) 40 days after his death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles on the day we refer to as Pentecost.*

*matrimony: Jesus began his public ministry by performing his first miracle at the Wedding at Cana.*

*holy orders: Jesus calls the 12 apostles to be “Fishers of Men.”*

*anointing of the sick: Jesus comforts all of physical illnesses.*

1. What are the Church’s four tasks? (in English)

*kerygma: share the message*

*koinonia: live in community*

*diakonia: serve others*

*leitourgia: worship the Lord*

1. What are the four marks of the Church? Explain.

*one:*

* *3 visible bonds of oneness/unity in the Church*
  1. *profession of one faith*
  2. *worship of God celebrated in common*
  3. *succession of the bishops through Holy Orders*
* *there can be great diversity in the Church, and yet the Church can remain one*

*holy:*

*“God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good” (Genesis 1:31)*

* *everything God made is holy-INCLUDING US!!!*
* *holiness is the Original Blessing*

*catholic:*

* *universal in two ways:*
  1. *The Church is catholic because all baptized people are part of the Church and the Church possesses the means of salvation.*
  2. *The mission of the Church is universal because the Church has been sent to proclaim Christ to the entire human race.*

*apostolic:*

* *founded by the Apostles*
* *authorizes the Apostles’ teaching unchanged*
* *continues to be taught, made holy, and sanctified by the bishops*
* *an Apostle’s role (YOU) is to be a missionary of the Christ’s love for the world*

1. What are the only two pieces of guidance for organizing the Church left by Jesus Christ?
2. *Jesus selected 12 Apostles*
3. *Jesus chose Peter as the leader of the 12*
4. According to the Acts of the Apostles, what was the Apostles’ first course of action in organizing the Church?

*maintain the number of Apostles at 12 as Jesus had in his lifetime*

1. Why was the position of “deacon” created by the Apostles? Why “presbyters”? Why “episcopes”?

*deacon: to serve & minister Jesus’ message*

*presbyters: to assist in decision-making for the spread of the Gospel*

*episcopes: to lead local communities*

1. Place the leadership positions of the Church in order beginning with the Head of the Church and ending with the Followers of the Church?

*1. pope*

*2. bishops (Cardinals; Archbishops; Bishops)*

*3. priests*

*4. deacons (Transitional; Permanent)*

*5. laity (Us; Sisters/Nuns; Brothers/Monks)*

1. Explain the three roles of the pope.

*1. Priest of San Giovanni Laterano (St. John Lateran)*

* *preaches here regularly*

*2. Bishop of the City of Rome*

* *control over a limited # of other local churches (a diocese)*
* *in turn, means St. John Lateran Basilica is a cathedral (a local church where the bishop resides)*

*3. Pope*

* *the “Ruler of Bishops”*
* *has final authority in all matters*
* *appoints bishops to diocese & transfers them to others*

1. Explain the roles of the bishops.

*1. Parish Priest*

*2. Bishop of their diocese*

* *have the power to grant holy orders*
* *minister confirmation*

1. What is the difference between a bishop and an archbishop?

*archbishops control a larger than average territory (of Catholic population)*

1. Explain the responsibilities of the cardinals.

* *act as an advisory panel for the pope*
* *elect the new pope*

1. What is the role of a priest?

* *in charge of a single parish*
* *answers to his Bishop & the Pope*

1. What is the role of a deacon?

*assist the bishops & the priests in the Church*

1. Explain the difference between a transitional deacon and a permanent deacon.

*transitional deacons: men preparing to become priests*

*permanent deacons: are not preparing for priesthood (may or may not be married)*

1. Who are the laity?

*baptized Catholics who share in Jesus’ mission & continue his work in the community but are not ordained*

1. What is the significance of the solemn vows? What are the solemn vows?

*significance: vows take by the consecrated members of our Church*

*solemn vows: poverty, chastity, & obedience*

1. What is monasticism? What is the main focus of monasticism?

*a movement of men & women away from the world to pursue holiness;*

*contemplation*

1. How do monk/nuns demonstrate love of others?

* *showed hospitality towards travelers*
* *communal monastic life: attention to the poor & sick*

1. What two Gospel passages caught the attention of Antony of Egypt?

* *remembered how the Apostles had sold their possessions & given $ to the poor*
* *heard the story of Jesus telling the rich man to give up his worldly possessions & follow him*

1. What lifestyle does Antony of Egypt adapt?

*hermit*

1. How did people view Antony of Egypt?

*as a teacher*

1. Originally, monks lived in solitude. However, who formed them into a religious community?

*Basil, a 4th century monk & bishop*

1. What “rule of life” did Basil stress?

*simple living*

1. What is an abbot? What is an abbot’s responsibility?

*the head of a monastery; responsible for applying the Gospel to everyday life*

1. Who translated the Bible from Hebrew/Greek to Latin?

*Jerome*

1. What is the Latin Vulgate?

*the translated Bible from Hebrew/Greek to Latin*

1. Through whose efforts were women encouraged to form convents?

*Jerome*

1. What is a charism? What is the charism of Marianists? Jesuits? Christian Brothers? Ursuline Sisters? Daughters of Charity?

*a special grace of the Holy Spirit given for the good of the Church;*

*Marianists: service*

*Jesuits: education*

*Christian Brothers: education*

*Ursuline Sisters: service*

*Daughters of Charity: service*