

Junior Church History 2014-2015
St Pius X High School - Kansas City, Missouri

Teacher: Mr. Jeffrey Gardner (jgardner@stpiusxhs-kc.com)

Dear students, I look forward to this upcoming year as we study Church History and our Catholic Faith. The course will be informative and moderately rigorous. You will be given homework and other assignments on a regular basis; these assignments, once completed, will be used as your primary study guides for tests, exams and quizzes. Please be advised that I will give Pop Quizzes on a regular basis. These Pop Quizzes will cover the main points that I teach during particular class period(s). NOTE: If I stress a particular point, you need to be prepared to take a test or quiz on that point. I reserve the right to give oral exams.

The Grading procedure will follow the SPX Grading system with grades composed of the following percentages: 80 to 85 % from assignments, tests, and quizzes conducted during the regular course of the semester; while the remaining 15 to 20 % of the grade will come from the final exam conducted during the "final exam" period of each semester.

The Textbook for this course is *The History of the Church: A Complete Course* by the Midwest Theological Forum (2007). We will study most of the chapters in the text as we explore Church History and our faith. Here are the main topics that will be studied: The Roman World; The Founding of the Church and the Early Christians; Persecution of the Church and Heresies that were fought by the Church Fathers; The Church in the Dark Ages and the eventual conversion of the Barbarian Tribes; Iconoclasm, the Carolingian Renaissance and Schism ; European collapse and the eventual corruption and reform of the Church; The Crusades and the Inquisition; The High Middle Ages followed by a Century of Plague, war and schism; The Renaissance; Two reformations followed by the Wars of Religion; Exploration and Missions; The French Revolution and Napoleon; The Church in the 19th and 20th centuries.

As students in my class, you need to understand my position regarding the Catholic Church. I am a practicing Roman Catholic and I will always stand with the Church against any non-orthodox or heretical beliefs. I will use the Catechism of the Catholic Church, The New American Catholic Bible, our textbook and other orthodox materials to guide my teaching. I do welcome your questions and/or opinions that are in opposition to the Catholic Faith. We can - at my discretion - discuss these questions and opinions, but in the end I will always stand in accordance with the beliefs of the Catholic Church. With this being said, though, I honor your freedom to make decisions as to whether or not you agree with the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church. Please make your decisions using reasoned thought based on solid information that informs your faith. Please do not make your decisions based solely on your feelings.

-I reserve the right to change this syllabus. (Turn sheet over for class rules)