

MT. ST. MICHAEL

Tuesday Evening Doctrine Classes – 6:30-7:30 p.m.

CATHOLIC DOCTRINE ON THE PAPACY (many points will be taken from 1911 *Catholic Encyclopedia*)

All audio recordings of classes & study sheets will be posted at the following link. You may listen online or download to your own computer.

<https://tinyurl.com/MSM-Papacy>

November 13, 2018

1. The Authority of the Pope
 - a. It is nothing less than the very authority of Jesus Christ! It is not the Pope's personal power as a human being, but rather the power that has been given to him by Christ Himself.
 - b. He obviously is not given all of Christ's powers, e.g. to judge mankind at the end of the world. But he does have the authority of Christ to sanctify, to teach, and to rule all the members of the Mystical Body of Christ.
2. Varying degrees of authority
 - a. **Simple priest** – given authority to dispense the Sacraments, and to preach. Every priest is called “another Christ” (alter Christus)
 - b. **Pastor** – in addition to what simple priest can do, he can authorize certain functions of his priest assistants. The Bishop shares some of his authority with the pastors of parishes.
 - c. **Bishop of Diocese** (called an “Ordinary”) – can do all that a priest can do, plus administer Holy Orders and Confirmation. He has teaching, ruling, and sanctifying power over his diocese and its members.
 - d. **Pope** – has supreme and universal authority over the entire Church, collectively and over each individual. As Bishop of Rome, he has the fullness of the priesthood to administer all the Sacraments any bishop can bestow. He teaches and rules all.
3. Types of Jurisdiction, i.e. “the public power granted by Christ or by His Church through canonical mission, of governing the baptized in matters referring to salvation” (
 - a. Ordinary – Pope & Bishops of Dioceses
 - b. Delegated – given by the Pope & Bishops to clergy subject to them
 - c. Supplied – given by the Church for extraordinary situations
4. How Jurisdiction is obtained
 - a. Ordinary
 - i. Pope – by Cardinals' election AND his acceptance of the election
 - ii. Bishop – by the Pope's appointment of him to a diocese
 - b. Delegated
 - i. Bestowed by the Pope on any clergy in the whole world
 - ii. Bestowed by the Bishop of a Diocese on any clergy in his diocese
 - c. Supplied
 - i. Bestowed in cases of common error & probable and positive doubt of law or of fact (Canon 209)

5. How Jurisdiction is lost by the Pope
 - a. Involuntary
 - i. Death
 - ii. Perpetual Insanity
 - b. Voluntary
 - i. Resignation
 - ii. Heresy or Apostasy
6. The **legal means** of establishing the loss of a Pope's jurisdiction, i.e. loss of the Papacy itself
 - a. **Death** – the top Cardinal, called the Camerlengo, certifies the death of a Pope, in the presence of other official witnesses
 - b. **Perpetual Insanity** – probably in the manner as above, or by a convocation of the Cardinals
 - c. **Resignation** – the Pope's own statement. Unlike the resignation of Cardinals, Bishops, or other clergy, his resignation does not have to be accepted by anyone, whereas the higher authority must always accept a resignation for it to take effect in the case of anyone else.
 - d. **Heresy or Apostasy** – the convocation of the Cardinals, or, in their default, the Bishops would have to declare this fact.