

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 20, 2018

COUPLE OF POINTS FROM LAST CLASS

1. How Jurisdiction is lost by the Pope
 - a. Involuntary
 - i. Death
 - ii. Perpetual Insanity
 - b. Voluntary
 - i. Resignation
 - ii. Heresy or Apostasy
2. 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.

TODAY'S CLASS

3. The Church is a Hierarchical, Monarchical Society
 - a. Every organized group of people needs an authority to guide it, make it function, and keep it together to fulfill its purpose.
 - i. Examples of authority: parents over their children, civil rulers over their subjects, CEOs & Boards of Directors over their companies, chairmen, presidents, et al.
 - b. Our Lord established the Church as an organized group; He bestowed authority on the Apostles, and primarily on St. Peter. "As the Father hath sent Me, so also I send you" (John 20:21)
 - i. Our Lord as Man was invested with threefold office of *Prophet*, *King*, and *Priest*.
 1. He shared His power as *Prophet* by giving them authority to teach. "Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)
 2. He shared His power as *King* by giving them the authority to rule (legislatively, judicially, and coercively). "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 18:18)
 3. He shared His power as *Priest* by giving them the priesthood for the purpose of sanctifying the faithful. "Do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19) "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." (John 20:23)

- ii. The Apostles, as recorded in the New Testament, conscientiously and purposefully used this authority.
4. These powers of teaching, ruling, and sanctifying were not meant to expire with the death of the Apostles!
 - a. "I will be with you all days, even to the consummation of the world" (Matthew 28:20). These words of Our Lord make abundantly clear that the powers were meant to be passed on.
 - b. The historical record demonstrates that the hundreds of Popes were elected throughout the centuries, each one succeeding to the See of Peter. It also demonstrates that the Apostles appointed and consecrated bishops as their successors.
 - c. The early Fathers of the Church provided historical lists of bishops tracing their lineage back to St. Peter or one of the Apostles.
 - d. The Apostles had greater prerogatives than their successors, namely:
 - i. Direct divine appointment and mission. Hence, they could consecrate bishops without needing permission from St. Peter.
 - ii. Charism of Divine Revelation
 - iii. Charism of Infallibility, according to some authors
 - iv. Charism of Miracles
5. As can be seen, Authority in the Church is NOT like that of civil republics, democracies, or limited monarchies.
 - a. NO ONE is above the Pope. Not even all the cardinals and bishops together can depose him or limit him.
 - b. Only the Pope has authority over cardinals and bishops. No one may interfere with the exercise of his power.
 - c. Whoever is elected Pope needs to be a man of *extraordinary holiness, knowledge, and leadership*. Even those called to be bishops have to be at the highest stage of the spiritual life, and be excellent leaders as well.
 - d. It *can* happen, very rarely, that a (true) Pope's *behavior* needs to be corrected, or a sinful *command* of his to be disobeyed, and this should be done by the appropriate dignitary (e.g. St. Paul "resisting Peter to the face" Galatians 2:11). But it can never happen that his official teaching, ruling, or sanctifying needs to be corrected. One would have to be above the Pope to do this.
6. The Office of the Papacy ("the Chair of Peter") remains until the end of time.
 - a. It becomes vacant ("*sede vacante*") every time a Pope dies, until a legitimate successor is elected.
 - b. Christ did NOT determine how a successor of St. Peter was to be obtained. The customary way, of course, was by election. Historically, the clergy of Rome did the electing because the Pope is the Bishop of Rome. From about 1100 A.D., it became the exclusive right of the Cardinals to elect the next Pope. They are, in fact, part of the clergy of Rome by virtue of the titular church assigned to each in Rome.
 - c. The Great Western Schism (1378-1417) was tremendously problematic, because of three men simultaneously claiming to be Pope, and casting into doubt which cardinals were validly appointed, thereby throwing into doubt any and all papal "elections" that took place in Rome, Avignon, or Pisa. It took a great deal of courage, charity, and humility to resolve this most difficult issue.

Finally, a council was convened by Pisan antipope John XXIII in 1414 at Constance to resolve the issue. This was endorsed by Pope Gregory XII, thus ensuring the legitimacy of any election. The council, advised by the theologian Jean Gerson, secured the resignations of John XXIII and Pope Gregory XII, who resigned in 1415, while excommunicating the second antipope, Benedict XIII, who refused to step down. The Council elected Pope Martin V in 1417, essentially ending the schism. Nonetheless, the Crown of Aragon did not recognize Pope Martin V and continued to recognize Benedict XIII. Archbishops loyal to Benedict XIII subsequently elected Antipope Benedict XIV (Bernard Garnier) and three followers simultaneously elected Antipope Clement VIII, but the Western Schism was by then practically over. Clement VIII resigned in 1429 and apparently recognized Martin V. (*Wikipedia* article)