

# LIST OF CATHOLIC HERESIES And HUMAN TRADITIONS

ADOPTED and PERPETUATED by the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
IN THE COURSE OF 1600 YEARS

(Compiled by Rev. Stephen L. Testa)

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall  
make you free.” –Jesus in John 8:32

**Notice:** These dates are in many cases approximate. Many of these heresies had been current in the Church years before, but only when they were officially adopted by a Church council and proclaimed by the pope as dogma of faith, did they become binding on Catholics.

And doctrine to be true must conform to the Word of God. “**To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**” (Isaiah 8:20)

At the Reformation in the 16th Century these heresies were repudiated as having no part in the Religion of Jesus as taught in the New Testament.

Heresy	Date
OF ALL THE HUMAN TRADITIONS taught and practiced by the Roman Catholic Church, which are contrary to the Bible, the most ancient are the <b>prayers for the dead</b> and the <b>sign of the Cross</b> . Both began 300 years after Christ.	310
<b>Wax Candles</b> introduced in church	320
<b>Veneration of angels and dead saints</b>	375
<b>The Mass</b> , as a daily celebration, adopted	394
The <b>worship of Mary</b> , the mother of Jesus, and the use of the term, "Mother of God", as applied to her, originated in the Council of Ephesus	431
Priests began to dress differently from the laity	500
Extreme Unction	526
The doctrine of <b>Purgatory</b> was first established by Gregory the Great	593

<p>The <b>Latin language</b>, as the language of prayer and worship in churches, was also imposed by Pope Gregory I. 600 years after Christ</p> <p>The Word of God forbids praying and teaching in an unknown tongue. (1st Corinthians 14:9).</p>	600
<p>The Bible teaches that we pray to God alone. In the primitive church never were <b>prayers directed to Mary</b>, or to dead saints. This practice began in the Roman Church.</p> <p>(Matthew 11:28; Luke 1:46; Acts 10:25-26; 14:14-18)</p>	600
<p>The <b>Papacy</b> is of pagan origin. The title of <b>pope</b> or universal bishop, was first given to the bishop of Rome by the wicked emperor Phocas.</p> <p>This he did to spite Bishop Ciriacus of Constantinople, who had justly excommunicated him for his having caused the assassination of his predecessor emperor Mauritius. Gregory 1, then bishop of Rome, refused the title, but his successor, Boniface III, first assumed title "pope."</p> <p>Jesus did not appoint Peter to the headship of the apostles and forbade any such notion. (Luke 22:24-26; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 1st Corinthians 3:11).</p> <p>Note: Nor is there any mention in Scripture, nor in history, that Peter ever was in Rome, much less that he was pope there for 25 years; Clement, 3rd bishop of Rome, remarks that "there is no real 1st century evidence that Peter ever was in Rome."</p>	610
<p><b>The kissing of the Pope's feet</b></p> <p>It had been a pagan custom to kiss the feet of emperors. The Word of God forbids such practices. (Read Acts 10:25-26; Revelation 19:10; 22:9).</p>	709
<p><b>The Temporal power of the Popes</b></p> <p>When Pepin, the usurper of the throne of France, descended into Italy, called by Pope Stephen II, to war against the Italian Lombards, he defeated them and gave the city of Rome and surrounding territory to the pope. Jesus expressly forbade such a thing, and He himself refused worldly kingship. (Read Matthew 4:8-9; 20:25-26; John 18:38).</p>	750
<p><b>Worship of the cross, images and relics</b> was authorized</p>	788

<p>This was by order of Dowager Empress Irene of Constantinople, who first caused to pluck the eyes of her own son, Constantine VI, and then called a church council at the request of Hadrian I, pope of Rome at that time.</p> <p>Such practice is called simply IDOLATRY in the Bible, and is severely condemned. (Read Exodus 20:4; 3:17; Deuteronomy 27:15; Psalm 115).</p>	
<p><b>Holy Water</b>, mixed with a pinch of salt and blessed by the priest, was authorized</p>	850
<p>The <b>veneration of St. Joseph</b> began</p>	890
<p>The <b>baptism of bells</b> was instituted by Pope John XIV</p>	965
<p><b>Canonization of dead saints</b>, first by Pope John XV</p> <p>Every believer and follower of Christ is called saint in the Bible. (Read Romans 1:7; 1st Colossians 1:2).</p>	995
<p><b>Fasting on Fridays</b> and during <b>Lent</b> were imposed</p> <p>Imposed by popes said to be interested in the commerce of fish. (Bull, or permit to eat meat), some authorities say, began in the year 700. This is against the plain teaching of the Bible. (Read Matthew 15:10; 1st Corinthians 10:25; 1st Timothy 4:1-3).</p>	998
<p>The <b>Mass</b> was developed gradually as a sacrifice; attendance made obligatory in the 11th century.</p> <p>The Bible teaches that the sacrifice of Christ was offered once and for all, and is not to be repeated, but only commemorated in the Lord's Supper. (Read Hebrews 7:27; 9:26-28; 10:10-14).</p>	
<p>The <b>celibacy</b> of the priesthood was decreed by Pope Hildebrand, Boniface VII</p> <p>Jesus imposed no such rule, nor did any of the apostles. On the contrary, St. Peter was a married man, and St. Paul says that bishops were to have wife and children. (Read 1st Timothy 3:2,5, and 12; Matthew 8:14-15).</p>	1079
<p>The <b>Rosary</b>, or prayer beads was introduced by Peter the Hermit, in the year 1090. Copied from Hindus and Mohammedans</p> <p>The counting of prayers is a pagan practice and is expressly condemned by Christ. (Matthew 6:5-13).</p>	1090
<p>The <b>Inquisition</b> of heretics was instituted by the Council of</p>	1184

Verona in the year 1184. Jesus never taught the use of force to spread His religion	
The sale of <b>Indulgences</b> , commonly regarded as a purchase of forgiveness and a permit to indulge in sin.  Christianity, as taught in the Bible, condemns such a traffic and it was the protest against this traffic that brought on the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century.	1190
The dogma of <b>Transubstantiation</b> was decreed by Pope Innocent III, in the year  By this doctrine the priest pretends to perform a daily miracle by changing a wafer into the body of Christ, and then he pretends to eat Him alive in the presence of his people during Mass. The Bible condemns such absurdities; for the Lord's Supper is simply a memorial of the sacrifice of Christ. The spiritual presence of Christ is implied in the Lord's Supper. (Read Luke 22:19-20; John 6:35; 1st Corinthians 11:26).	1215
<b>Confession of sin to the priest</b> at least once a year was instituted by Pope Innocent III., in the Lateran Council  The Bible commands us to confess our sins direct to God. (Read Psalm 51:1-10; Luke 7:48; 15:21; 1st John 1:8-9).	1215
The <b>adoration of the wafer</b> (Host), was decreed by Pope Honorius  So the Roman Church worships a God made by human hands. This is plain idolatry and absolutely contrary to the spirit of the Gospel. (Read John 4:24).	1220
The <b>Bible forbidden</b> to laymen and placed in the Index of forbidden books by the Council of Valencia  Jesus commanded that the Scriptures should be read by all. (John 5:39; 1st Timothy 3:15-17).	1229
The <b>Scapular</b> was invented by Simon Stock, and English monk  It is a piece of brown cloth, with the picture of the Virgin and supposed to contain supernatural virtue to protect from all dangers those who wear it on naked skin. This is fetishism.	1287
The Roman Church <b>forbade the cup</b> to the laity, by instituting the communion of one kind in the Council of Constance  The Bible commands us to celebrate the Lord's Supper with	1414

unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. (Read Matthew 26:27; 1st Corinthians 11:26-29).	
The <b>doctrine of Purgatory</b> was proclaimed as a dogma of faith by Council of Florence  There is not one word in the Bible that would teach the purgatory of priests. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sins. (Read 1st John 1:7-9; 2:1-2; John 5:24; Romans 8:1).	1439
The doctrine of <b>7 Sacraments</b> affirmed  The Bible says that Christ instituted only two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Read Matthew 28:19-20; 26:26-28).	1439
The <b>Ave Maria</b> , part of the last  It was completed 50 years afterward and finally approved by Pope Sixtus V, at the end of the 16th century.	1508
The Council of Trent, held in the year 1545, declared that <b>Tradition</b> is of equal authority with the Bible  By tradition is meant human teachings. The Pharisees believed the same way, and Jesus bitterly condemned them, for by teaching human tradition, they nullified the commandments of God. (Read Mark 7:7-13; Colossians 2:8; Revelation 22:18).	1545
The <b>apocryphal books</b> were added to the Bible also by the Council of Trent  These books were not recognized as canonical by the Jewish Church. (See Revelation 22:8-9).	1546
The <b>Creed of Pope Pius IV</b> was imposed as the official creed 1560 years after Christ and the apostles  True Christians retain the Holy Scriptures as their creed. Hence their creed is 1500 years older than the creed of Roman Catholics. (Read Galatians 1:8).	1560
The <b>Immaculate Conception</b> of the Virgin Mary was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX  The Bible states that all men, with the sole exception of Christ, are sinners. Mary herself had need of a Savior. (Read Romans 3:23; 5:12; Psalm 51:5; Luke 1:30,46,47).	1834
In the year 1870 after Christ, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma	1870

<p><b>of Papal Infallibility</b></p> <p>This is a blasphemy and the sign of the apostasy and of the antichrist predicted by St. Paul. (Read 2nd Thessalonians 2:2-12; Revelation 17:1-9; 13:5-8,18).</p> <p>Many Bible students see the number of the beast (Rev. 13:18), 666 in the Roman letters of the Pope's title: "VICARIVS FILII DEI." -- V-5, I-1; C-100, I-1; V-S, I-1; L-50, I-1; I-1; D-500, I-l – Total, 666.</p>	
<p>Pope Plus X, in the year 1907, condemned together with "Modernism", all the discoveries of modern science which are not approved by the Church</p> <p>Pius IX had done the same thing in the Syllabus of 1864.</p>	1907
<p>In the year 1930 Pius XI, <b>condemned the Public Schools</b></p>	1930
<p>In the year 1931 the same pope Pius XI, reaffirmed the doctrine that Mary is "<b>the Mother of God</b>"</p> <p>This doctrine was first invented by the Council of Ephesus in the year 431. This is a heresy contrary by Mary's own words. (Read Luke 1:46-49; John 2: 1-5).</p>	1931
<p>In the year 1950 the last dogma was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII, the <b>Assumption of the Virgin Mary</b></p>	1950