

AD 1800 to Present History

UNIT 2, LESSON 12

Learning Goals

- › The Catholic Church expanded throughout the world in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- › Three Portuguese shepherd children were granted visions of the Virgin Mary in 1917. This Marian apparition is known as Our Lady of Fátima.
- › The Church survived persecution under Nazi and Communist governments.
- › In the 20th century, Communist governments killed more people than any other government in history and especially targeted Christians for persecution.
- › Pope John XXIII called the Second Vatican Council to renew and reform the Church.



Connection to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- › CCC 159-160
- › CCC 816
- › CCC 1929
- › CCC 1947
- › CCC 2425
- › CCC 2932



Vocabulary

- › Apparition
- › Ecumenical
- › Encyclical
- › Solidarity

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:3

Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment.

Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.

1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

Lesson Plan

Materials

- Church History AD 1800 to Present
- Documents on Catholic Social Teaching
- Teacher Resource: Timeline Strips AD 1800 to Present
- Teacher Resource: John 16:20-33

DAY ONE

Warm-Up

- A. Ask students to share what they already know about the global challenges of the last two centuries. Keep on the board a list of the major figures in world history, as well as major events and conflicts. Be sure to include:
- Karl Marx
 - World War I
 - Adolph Hitler
 - World War II
 - Communist dictators such as Joseph Stalin, Mao Tse Tung, Pol Pot
 - The Cold War
 - Pope John Paul II
- B. Let students know that they will learn about all these names in the next several days.



Activity

- A. Have students turn to **Church History AD 1800 to the Present (page 144)** and read the essay.
- B. When they are finished, go over following information in a mini-lecture. Encourage them to take notes in the margin as you present the information.

The ideas of the period commonly known as the Enlightenment gave rise to a scientific revolution. Many people turned to science (instead of the Church) to tell them whether something should be done or how it could be improved. Since applied science (called technology) often gave rise to new products and approaches, people began to assume that new things or processes were always good. The theory of evolution seemed to support the assumption that if something was changing, it was changing for the better.

This fundamental change affected almost every part of life. Even the way you [meaning students today] learn was affected, because people started to think about education through the lens of science. One-room schoolhouses were replaced by more “efficient” factories of sorts where children were divided by age and moved through separated subjects and grade levels. The school became like an assembly line: teachers were like the workers doing their part by teaching a single subject, and the children were the products that were “complete” once they had moved through all the grades and graduated.

As society became more and more industrialized, new problems began to arise. The terrible “science” of eugenics born during this time attempted to use scientific principles to remove “undesirable” genetic traits from the human race. A few wealthy people owned all the factories and companies, and the poor suffered unjust treatment. Laborers, including young children, worked very long hours, often in subhuman conditions. Deadly industrial accidents were common. The industrial revolution led to the treatment of people as means to an end – workers existed to make things so that others could profit.

These injustices concerned many people, including Karl Marx, a German philosopher. Marx saw all of human history as a kind of class warfare – a struggle between the rich and the poor. He argued that private property should be done away with, and the people (in other words, the state) should own and control all production. Marx wrote his most famous book, The Communist Manifesto, in 1848.

The Church addressed these injustices by affirming Catholic Social Teaching. Rerum Novarum, an encyclical on capital and labor, was written by Pope Leo XIII in 1891. This teaching affirms that work has dignity and that the wealthy must care for the poor. The Church clearly stated, however, that communism is NOT the solution to the social problems of the industrial revolution.

Less than 10 years later, the first Communist party would form in Russia.

Activity

Have students work in pairs and use their textbooks, mini-lecture notes, and other available resources to discover the significance of the items on **Church History AD 1800 to the Present**. See the answer key for correct responses.

DAY TWO

Warm-Up

Challenge students: After abortion, who or what has killed the most innocent people in the 20th century? Violent crime? The Spanish flu epidemic? World War I? World War II? Natural disasters? Terrorism? Famine? *The answer is that more people died because they were killed by Communist governments than for any other reason except abortion.*

Activity

- A. Explain to students that while Christians have faced persecution throughout history, Communism was an unprecedented threat. Explain in a mini-lecture:

Communism is a political and economic theory of the 19th century that holds that private property should not exist and that workers should control the means of production (such as factories, roads, boats, and so forth). Communism requires a totalitarian, authoritarian government to enforce this “equality.”

Karl Marx famously said that religion is the opiate of the people. He thought that religion conditioned people to accept poor living conditions. He especially hated Christianity because Christ teaches us to love our neighbor and to turn the other cheek when we are wronged.

Therefore, no religion is allowed in a Communist country. But Communists not only banned people from publicly practicing their religions; they also actively fought against the existence of religion by arresting, torturing, and killing people of faith.

Communist dictators killed millions of people who disagreed with their ideas and sent millions more to prison camps. After abortion, more people were killed by Communist governments in the 20th century than by any other cause, and Communists have killed more people than any other government in recorded history. Because of the secretive nature of many of the killings, it is hard to know exactly how many were killed. Estimates range between 20 and 70 million people.

A Romanian pastor who was imprisoned and tortured by the Communists for 14 years wrote in his book, Tortured for Christ, that communism is an evil that can be countered only by the Spirit of God. Archbishop Fulton Sheen wrote, “Communism has produced a society that is authoritarian, cruel, oppressive of human freedom, filled with concentration camps, firing squads, and brain-washings.”

Some people claim that communism is good in theory but evil in practice. But the truth is that communism is not even good in theory. Communism offends human dignity and is not a solution to unjust treatment of workers or to poverty.

The Catechism explains, “The Church has rejected the totalitarian and atheistic ideologies associated in modern times with ‘communism’ or ‘socialism.’ The Church also rejects purely capitalistic societies that rely only on the marketplace to provide social justice (CCC 2425).

As several popes would go on to affirm, private property is good, and the ability to be paid for one’s work encourages people to care for themselves and their families. Business owners must treat their employees justly, and the wealthy have a solemn duty to care for the poor. And as the Second Vatican Council would affirm in the mid-20th century, all people have the right to religious liberty. “To be human, ‘man’s response to God by faith must be free, and... therefore nobody is to be forced to embrace the faith against his will. The act of faith is of its very nature a free act” (CCC 160).

- B. Give students additional time to work on **Church History AD 1800 to the Present**.

Formative Assessment

Ask students to compare and contrast life in a Communist government with life in a free society.

DAY THREE

Warm-Up

- A. Ask the class what it means to be “social.” *Students may say it means to be with other people, to spend time with family and friends, to hang out together, and to live and work with different types of people.*
- B. Explain that we are inherently social creatures because God made us that way. We are made in His image, and God Himself is a communion of persons: the Blessed Trinity. We are born into the basic social unit of society: a family. We were created by God to build relationships and to love – to give ourselves for the good of others.
- C. The Church’s Social Teaching affirms the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death and defines all human beings’ responsibilities to each other in light of Christ’s commandments. The greatest of these is that we love one another as He has loved us. What we do to the least of our brethren, we do to Him.
- D. Explain that awareness of global economic, ecological, and social issues has brought a new dimension to the Church’s Social Teaching. Human dignity “gives urgency to the elimination of sinful inequalities” (CCC 1947).
- E. The best way to understand what the Church teaches is to read Church documents. Have students turn to **Documents on Catholic Social Teaching (page 149)**. Explain that the documents on **Documents on Catholic Social Teaching** are encyclicals. If needed, explain that an encyclical is a teaching document written by the pope.

Activity

Go over the list of important Church documents on **Documents on Catholic Social Teaching**. Students should rewrite the quote from each in their own words. You can use the answer key as lecture notes to help students fill in the key points, and/or have students research one or all of these documents for homework and report back next class. More information about each of the documents listed can be found at www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/foundational-documents.cfm.

Documents on Catholic Social Teaching

Directions: Research the documents below and provide a short summary of the key points of each. Remember that the Church has no authority to change doctrine, which the Church has received from Jesus Christ. That means that none of the ideas in the documents below were “new” at the time they were written. Rather these ideas were being defined and clarified for the people of that time and thereafter to understand them better.

Rerum Novarum, On the Condition of Labor, by Pope Leo XIII, 1891

“Workers are not to be treated as slaves; justice demands that the dignity of human personality be respected in them. . . . Sinful occupations are not a mark of shame to man, but rather of respect, as they provide him with an honorable means of supporting life.”

Key points:

- > _____
- > _____
- > _____
- > _____

In your own words:

149

150

151

DAY FOUR**Warm-Up**

Spend time going over **Documents on Catholic Social Teaching** and making sure that students understand the key ideas of each document.

Activity and Assessment

- A. Before class, copy and cut out **Teacher Resource: Timeline Strips AD 1800 to Present (page 339 in this guide)**.
- B. Go over the events on the strips. As you discuss each event, have students write in each date and event on their timelines and add each strip to the large class timeline. *Note: To aid in class discussion, some explanatory notes are included below that are not on the strips. Students may also wish to decorate the large class timeline with artwork.*
- C. For each event, students should write two or three sentences and/or draw a picture explaining the significance of the event to decorate their timelines. They should use the essay on **page 144** in their workbook as a reference.

1848 Karl Marx writes *The Communist Manifesto*.

1868-1870 Ecumenical Council of the Vatican (now known as Vatican I).

1903 Bolshevik party formed in Russia.

1914 World War I begins.

1917 Three children in Fátima, Portugal, are granted visions of the Virgin Mary.

Our Lady asked the children to pray the Rosary to stop the spread of Russia's errors and for world peace. She asked that Russia be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart.

1922 Soviet Union formed.

Lenin was its first leader; Stalin took power two years after Lenin's death.

1926 The first Catholic bishops in China are ordained.

1933 Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany; first Nazi concentration camp is opened.

1939 World War II begins.

1940 Communist governments begin persecutions and mass murder across Europe and Asia.

1962-1965 Ecumenical Council of the Vatican (now known as Vatican II).

1973 The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the Constitution protects the right to an abortion.

1989 The Soviet Union begins to fall.

The end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the end of communism in Europe would come in 1991.

- D. Discuss how it is important to remember that, while the Holy Spirit always guides the Church, the Church is made up of human beings who can make mistakes and are capable of sinning. Therefore, conflicts, controversies, corruption, and even wars are found throughout the history of the Church. By studying history, we can learn from it. What are the lesson(s) we can learn from this period in Church history?

In addition to the ideas students generate, you may add:

- ▶ Trying to base a society on reason alone leads to treating people as less than human. “Social justice can be obtained only in respecting the transcendent dignity of man” (CCC 1929).
 - ▶ Ideas have consequences.
 - ▶ Communism is evil and not a solution to social injustice.
 - ▶ While always affirming that the Catholic Church alone offers the fullness of the means of salvation, ecumenical efforts spurred by Vatican II have led to increased understanding among Christian communities.
 - ▶ Religious belief is a free act and cannot be forced.
 - ▶ The Church has outlasted every government in human history.
- E. Build on this question by asking: What can we learn from Church history *as a whole*? Prompt student thinking by asking questions such as:
- ▶ We have different technologies, speak different languages, and live different lifestyles from the earliest Christians, but how different is our mission from the mission of those who lived at the same time as Jesus? Is it any different at all?
 - ▶ Has there ever been a period in history that was free from strife and conflict?
 - ▶ Free from war?
 - ▶ Free from genocide?
 - ▶ Has there ever been a time when the Church has not been under attack in some way?
 - ▶ Knowing all this, how can we go on? From where do we draw our strength? *We know we can have faith because the battle is already won. Jesus has won it for us.*
- F. Close by distributing **Teacher Resource: John 16:20-33 (page 341 in this guide)** and praying a *Lectio Divina* with this Gospel passage.

Church History AD 1800 to the Present

Directions: Read the essay, then use the information you learn to complete the chart that follows. Then, answer the reflection question.

The ideas of the period commonly known as the Enlightenment gave rise to a scientific revolution. Many people now turned to science to tell them whether something should be done or how it could be improved. Problems began when people attempted to use science or scientific approaches in ways that ignored the dignity of the human person.

The Industrial Revolution, which took place in the years leading up to the 1820s, brought many exciting scientific innovations like steam engines and the telegraph. Innovations like the assembly line maximized what workers could produce. Unfortunately, though, this approach often led to the treatment of people as means to an end – workers were thought to exist in order to make things so that others could profit. Laborers worked very long hours, often in subhuman conditions. Deadly industrial accidents were common.

These injustices concerned many people, including Karl Marx, a German philosopher. Marx saw all of human history as a struggle between the rich and the poor. Marx wrote his most famous book, *The Communist Manifesto*, in 1848. Communism is a political and economic theory based on Marx's ideas. It holds that private property should not exist and that workers should control the means of production (such as factories, roads, boats, and so forth). Communism requires a totalitarian, authoritarian government to enforce this "equality."

Marx thought that religion helped keep poor people poor because it led them to accept bad living conditions. He especially hated Christianity because of Christ's love for the poor, and His teaching to love our neighbor and to turn the other cheek rather than seek revenge or retribution. Religion also shows people that their true source of hope is not the government, but God. Accordingly, most communist countries are officially atheistic.

Communism offends human dignity

Some people claim that communism is good in theory but evil in practice. But the truth is that communism is not even good in theory. Communism offends human dignity and is not a solution to unjust treatment of workers or to poverty. (And neither, the Church warns, is pure capitalism.)

The *Catechism* explains, "The Church has rejected the totalitarian and atheistic ideologies associated in modern times with 'communism' or 'socialism.' The Church also rejects purely capitalistic societies that rely only on the marketplace to provide social justice (CCC 2425).

The Church addressed the injustices of the industrial revolution by affirming Catholic Social Teaching. *Rerum Novarum*, an encyclical on capital and labor, was written by Pope Leo XIII in 1891. This teaching affirms that work has dignity and that the wealthy must care for the

poor. The Church clearly stated, however, that communism was not the solution to the social problems of the industrial revolution. Catholic teaching is clear that “Social justice can be obtained only in respecting the transcendent dignity of man” (CCC 1929).

As several popes would go on to affirm, private property is good, and the ability to be paid for one’s work encourages people to care for themselves and their families. Business owners must treat their employees justly, and the wealthy have a solemn duty to care for the poor. Ultimately, the human person is the center of economic and social activities. All the things we make, buy, sell, or trade should be for the good of other people. People are the ones who take resources and put them together in innovative ways (entrepreneurs and other producers) to make something that others value enough to buy (consumers). Our social lives are the same way: the way we interact within our families, communities, states, and countries should help our brothers and sisters be the best they can be. God created everything good in the world for the good of human beings. And so it follows that a society is only just if all the things God created are within reach for everyone. It is important to note that the value of work itself comes from our own participation in it. Through our labor, we participate in God’s work of creation. By uniting our work to Christ, we can “offer up” our labor, making it redemptive.

The rise of communism in Russia

In the years following the Reformation, the Church—and indeed the entire world—faced a new threat. World War I was raging. A communist political party based on the ideas of Marx was formed in Russia now known as the Bolsheviks. Its members hid their true

goals: they first called themselves the Russian Social Democratic Party, then revealed their Communist ideology after seizing power in 1917. Their leader was Vladimir Lenin.

The Bolsheviks went on to wage a civil war against anti-communist forces within Russia. At the end of the war, the victorious communists established the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, also known as the USSR or the Soviet Union, by unifying Russia and several other conquered territories under one Communist party rule.

Our Lady of Fatima

In the same year that the Russian Civil War began, three children in Portugal were granted a vision of the Blessed Virgin. Our Lady appeared to shepherd children Lúcia Santos, Jacinta Marto, and Francisco Marto in 1917. Our Lady appeared to them six times over six months. When the children asked her name, she responded, “I am the Lady of the Rosary.” She asked them to “say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.” On October 13, 1917, 70,000 people witnessed a miracle of the sun; witnesses reported seeing the sun spinning and zigzagging through the sky and reported that their wet clothing suddenly became dry. Our Lady asked that Russia, in particular, be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart, to bring about its conversion and to stop the spread of its errors.

Joseph Stalin

After Lenin died, Joseph Stalin became the communist dictator of the USSR from 1922 to 1953. Stalin expanded the secret police, and sent millions of people to be killed or to the gulags (prison camps). In the late 1930s,

Answer Key

Bolsheviks

- ▶ Marxist political party formed in Russia in 1903.
- ▶ Originally called themselves the Russian Social Democratic Party, revealed their Communist ideology after taking power in 1917.
- ▶ Led by Vladimir Lenin.
- ▶ *Suggested Summary Statement:* The Bolsheviks were a communist political party in Russia that severely mistreated the people of their country and degraded the dignity of the human person.

he instituted what is known as the Great Purge, which were killings designed to rid the Communist government of all threats. In addition to those executed, millions died from famine caused by forced collectivized farming. Stalin was responsible for at least 20 million deaths. Because of the secretive nature of many of the killings, it is hard to know exactly how many were killed. Estimates range between 20 and 70 million people.

Turmoil throughout Europe continued throughout World War II (1939–1945). During this time, many saints of the Church worked for mercy and human rights.

The Second Vatican Council

A Church council was announced by Pope John XXIII on Jan. 25, 1959. The Second Vatican Council, sometimes called Vatican II, called for a renewal of the Catholic Faith in the world today. The 21st council in Church history, Vatican II was held between 1962 and 1965. The council produced 16 documents with the purpose of clarifying doctrine and giving guidance for evangelization in the modern world.

A 20th century ecumenical movement helped by Vatican II has been a force for increased understanding among Christian communities. The Church acknowledges that other religions

contain elements of sanctification, while not straying from the truth that the Church contains the fullness of the faith. The Vatican II Decree on Ecumenism explains: “For it is through Christ’s Catholic Church alone, which is the universal help toward salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained. It was to the apostolic college alone, of which Peter is the head, that we believe that our Lord entrusted all the blessings of the New Covenant, in order to establish on earth the one Body of Christ into which all those should be fully incorporated who belong in any way to the People of God” (CCC 816).

One 20th-century pope who took part in the Second Vatican Council as a bishop, Pope St. John Paul II, faced down communism from his earliest days. Ultimately, through prayer and his Christ-like response, he helped to bring down the Soviet Union and to end the Cold War in 1991.

The right to religious liberty

And as the Second Vatican Council would affirm in the mid-20th century, all people have the right to religious liberty. “To be human, ‘man’s response to God by faith must be free, and therefore nobody is to be forced to embrace the faith against his will. The act of faith is of its very nature a free act’” (CCC 160).

Answer Key

Our Lady of Fátima

- ▶ The Virgin Mary appeared to Portuguese shepherd children Lúcia Santos, Jacinta Marto, and Francisco Marto in 1917.
- ▶ Our Lady appeared to them six times over six months. When they asked her name, she responded, “I am the Lady of the Rosary.”
- ▶ She asked them to “say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.”
- ▶ 70,000 people witnessed a miracle of the sun on October 13, 1917. Witnesses reported seeing the sun spinning and zigzagging through the sky and reported that their wet clothing suddenly became dry.
- ▶ Our Lady asked that Russia in particular be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart, to bring about its conversion and to stop the spread of its errors. More information and a description in Sr. Lúcia’s words can be found at: www.ewtn.com/expert/answers/FatimaConsecration.htm.
- ▶ *Suggested Summary Statement:* Our Lady of Fátima refers to apparitions of Mary to three children in Portugal in 1917 in which she asked the world to pray the Rosary, end war, and bring peace to the world.

Individual/event	List key information about this individual/event	Write a summary statement explaining the significance of this individual/event
Bolsheviks		
Our Lady of Fátima		

(continued on next page)

Answer Key

Joseph Stalin

- › Dictator of USSR from 1922 to 1953.
- › Came to power after Lenin died.
- › Expanded secret police, sent millions to be killed or to the gulags (prison camps).
- › Millions died from famine caused by forced collectivized farming.
- › Instituted what is known as the Great Purge in the late 1930s, killings designed to rid the Communist government of all threats.
- › Responsible for 20 million deaths.
- › *Suggested Summary Statement:* Stalin was a dictator in communist Russia whose policies caused the deaths of millions of his people.

Answer Key

Second Vatican Council

- ▶ The 21st council in Church history.
- ▶ Produced 16 documents with the purpose of clarifying doctrine and providing guidance for accomplishing the mission of the Church in the modern world.
- ▶ Its Decree on Ecumenism explains: “For it is through Christ’s Catholic Church alone, which is the universal help toward salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained. It was to the apostolic college alone, of which Peter is the head, that we believe that our Lord entrusted all the blessings of the New Covenant, in order to establish on earth the one Body of Christ into which all those should be fully incorporated who belong in any way to the People of God” (CCC 816).
- ▶ A 20th-century ecumenical movement helped by Vatican II has been a force for increased understanding among Christian communities.
- ▶ *Suggested Summary Statement:* The most recent Church council, Vatican II called for a renewal of the Catholic Faith in the World today.

Individual/event	List key information about this individual/event	Write a summary statement explaining the significance of this individual/event
Joseph Stalin		
Second Vatican Council		

Reflection Question

We have different technologies, speak different languages, and live different lifestyles from the earliest Christians, but how different is our mission from the mission of those who lived at the same time as Jesus? Is it any different at all? Explain on your own paper.

Answer Key

Rerum Novarum, On the Condition of Labor, by Pope Leo XIII, 1891

Key points:

- ▶ Work has dignity, and the dignity of workers must be respected.
- ▶ The industrial revolution has brought challenges to the rights of workers.
- ▶ Low wages and poor living conditions are unjust and cause suffering.
- ▶ Common ownership of property and socialism are not solutions to these problems.
- ▶ Private property is good and allows people to plan for the future and control their lives.

Documents on Catholic Social Teaching

Directions: Research the documents below and provide a short summary of the key points of each. Remember that the Church has no authority to change doctrine, which the Church has received from Jesus Christ. That means that none of the ideas in the documents below were “new” at the time they were written. Rather these ideas were being defined and clarified for the people of that time and thereafter to understand them better.

Rerum Novarum, On the Condition of Labor, by Pope Leo XIII, 1891

“Workers are not to be treated as slaves; justice demands that the dignity of human personality be respected in them. ... Gainful occupations are not a mark of shame to man, but rather of respect, as they provide him with an honorable means of supporting life.”

Key points:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In your own words:

Answer Key

Gaudium et Spes, Joy and Hope, The Church in the Modern World, Second Vatican Council, 1965

Key points:

- › Industry, economic activity, and politics should serve the common good.
- › Treating people as “tools for profit” is a “poison” that offends human dignity.
- › Our human dignity comes not from what we do or from what we own, but from being made in the image of God.

Evangelium Vitae, the Gospel of Life, Pope St. John Paul II, 1995

Key points:

- › Life is a gift, and we can know how precious it is because the Son of God became man.
- › The culture of death is based on the idea that human life is disposable.
- › Our society has become a culture of death.
- › “The direct and voluntary taking of all innocent human life” is “always gravely immoral.” Abortion and euthanasia threaten the most vulnerable among us.

Gaudium et Spes, Joy and Hope, The Church in the Modern World, Second Vatican Council, 1965

“People are of greater value for what they are than for what they have. Technical progress is of less value than advances towards greater justice, wider kinship and a more humane social environment. Technical progress may supply the material for human advance but it is powerless to achieve it.”

Key points:

- › _____
- › _____
- › _____
- › _____
- › _____

In your own words:

Evangelium Vitae, the Gospel of Life, Pope St. John Paul II, 1995

“We must protect and promote ‘a new culture of human life.’ The direct and voluntary taking of all innocent human life is ‘always gravely immoral.’”

Key points:

- › _____
- › _____
- › _____
- › _____
- › _____

In your own words:

Answer Key

Deus Caritas Est, God Is Love, by Pope Benedict XVI, 2005

Key points:

- ▶ There are different kinds of love. Each is defined with the Greek words *philia* (the love of friendship), *eros* (romantic love), and *agape* (self-giving love).
- ▶ God's love for man is *agape*.
- ▶ *Agape* is the highest kind of love, but all of the kinds of love are good.
- ▶ We are called to love our neighbor, and the Church should reflect the Trinity, which is a communion of life-giving love.

Laudato Si', Praise Be to You, by Pope Francis, 2015

Key points:

- ▶ Man is the pinnacle of creation, but the dominion given by God to humanity does not mean we have a right to "unbridled exploitation" of the earth.
- ▶ Climate change is one of the "principal challenges facing humanity in our day."
- ▶ To be complete, ecology must include mankind.
- ▶ The goal of protecting the environment does not justify abortion or government policies aimed at "population control."

Deus Caritas Est, God Is Love, by Pope Benedict XVI, 2005

"A pure and generous love is the best witness to the God in whom we believe and by whom we are driven to love. A Christian knows when it is time to speak of God and when it is better to say nothing and to let love alone speak. He knows that God is love."

Key points:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In your own words:

Laudato Si', Praise Be to You, by Pope Francis, 2015

"When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected."

Key points:

- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____
- ▶ _____

In your own words:

Timeline Strips AD 1800 to Present

AD 1848

Karl Marx writes
*The Communist
Manifesto.*

AD 1917

Three children in
Fátima, Portugal, are
granted visions of the
Virgin Mary.

AD 1868-1870

Ecumenical Council
of the Vatican (now
known as Vatican I).

AD 1922

Soviet Union formed.

AD 1903

Bolshevik party
formed in Russia.

AD 1926

First Catholic bishops
ordained in China.

AD 1914

World War I begins.

AD 1933

Hitler becomes
chancellor of
Germany; first Nazi
concentration camp
is opened.

AD 1939

World War II begins.

AD 1940

Communist
governments begin
persecutions and
mass murder across
Europe and Asia.

AD 1962-1965

Ecumenical Council
of the Vatican (now
known as Vatican II).

AD 1973

The U.S. Supreme
Court rules that the
Constitution protects
the right to an
abortion.

AD 1989

Soviet Union begins
to fall.

John 16:20-33

“Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.

“When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world.

“So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

“On that day you will not question me about anything. Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you.

“Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

“I have told you this in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures but I will tell you clearly about the Father.

“On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not tell you that I will ask the Father for you.

“For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God.

“I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

His disciples said, “Now you are talking plainly, and not in any figure of speech.

“Now we realize that you know everything and that you do not need to have anyone question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God.”

Jesus answered them, “Do you believe now?

“Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

“I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”

Church History AD 1800 to the Present

Directions: Read the essay, then use the information you learn to complete the chart that follows. Then, answer the reflection question.

The ideas of the period commonly known as the Enlightenment gave rise to a scientific revolution. Many people now turned to science to tell them whether something should be done or how it could be improved. Problems began when people attempted to use science or scientific approaches in ways that ignored the dignity of the human person.

The Industrial Revolution, which took place in the years leading up to the 1820s, brought many exciting scientific innovations like steam engines and the telegraph. Innovations like the assembly line maximized what workers could produce. Unfortunately, though, this approach often led to the treatment of people as means to an end – workers were thought to exist in order to make things so that others could profit. Laborers worked very long hours, often in subhuman conditions. Deadly industrial accidents were common.

These injustices concerned many people, including Karl Marx, a German philosopher. Marx saw all of human history as a struggle between the rich and the poor. Marx wrote his most famous book, *The Communist Manifesto*, in 1848. Communism is a political and economic theory based on Marx's ideas. It holds that private property should not exist and that workers should control the means of production (such as factories, roads, boats, and so forth). Communism requires a totalitarian, authoritarian government to enforce this "equality."

Marx thought that religion helped keep poor people poor because it led them to accept bad living conditions. He especially hated Christianity because of Christ's love for the poor, and His teaching to love our neighbor and to turn the other cheek rather than seek revenge or retribution. Religion also shows people that their true source of hope is not the government, but God. Accordingly, most communist countries are officially atheistic.

Communism offends human dignity

Some people claim that communism is good in theory but evil in practice. But the truth is that communism is not even good in theory. Communism offends human dignity and is not a solution to unjust treatment of workers or to poverty. (And neither, the Church warns, is pure capitalism.)

The *Catechism* explains, "The Church has rejected the totalitarian and atheistic ideologies associated in modern times with 'communism' or 'socialism.' The Church also rejects purely capitalistic societies that rely only on the marketplace to provide social justice (CCC 2425).

The Church addressed the injustices of the industrial revolution by affirming Catholic Social Teaching. *Rerum Novarum*, an encyclical on capital and labor, was written by Pope Leo XIII in 1891. This teaching affirms that work has dignity and that the wealthy must care for the

poor. The Church clearly stated, however, that communism was not the solution to the social problems of the industrial revolution. Catholic teaching is clear that “Social justice can be obtained only in respecting the transcendent dignity of man” (CCC 1929).

As several popes would go on to affirm, private property is good, and the ability to be paid for one’s work encourages people to care for themselves and their families. Business owners must treat their employees justly, and the wealthy have a solemn duty to care for the poor. Ultimately, the human person is the center of economic and social activities. All the things we make, buy, sell, or trade should be for the good of other people. People are the ones who take resources and put them together in innovative ways (entrepreneurs and other producers) to make something that others value enough to buy (consumers). Our social lives are the same way: the way we interact within our families, communities, states, and countries should help our brothers and sisters be the best they can be. God created everything good in the world for the good of human beings. And so it follows that a society is only just if all the things God created are within reach for everyone. It is important to note that the value of work itself comes from our own participation in it. Through our labor, we participate in God’s work of creation. By uniting our work to Christ, we can “offer up” our labor, making it redemptive.

The rise of communism in Russia

In the years following the Reformation, the Church—and indeed the entire world—faced a new threat. World War I was raging. A communist political party based on the ideas of Marx was formed in Russia now known as the Bolsheviks. Its members hid their true

goals: they first called themselves the Russian Social Democratic Party, then revealed their Communist ideology after seizing power in 1917. Their leader was Vladimir Lenin.

The Bolsheviks went on to wage a civil war against anti-communist forces within Russia. At the end of the war, the victorious communists established the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, also known as the USSR or the Soviet Union, by unifying Russia and several other conquered territories under one Communist party rule.

Our Lady of Fatima

In the same year that the Russian Civil War began, three children in Portugal were granted a vision of the Blessed Virgin. Our Lady appeared to shepherd children Lúcia Santos, Jacinta Marto, and Francisco Marto in 1917. Our Lady appeared to them six times over six months. When the children asked her name, she responded, “I am the Lady of the Rosary.” She asked them to “say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.” On October 13, 1917, 70,000 people witnessed a miracle of the sun; witnesses reported seeing the sun spinning and zigzagging through the sky and reported that their wet clothing suddenly became dry. Our Lady asked that Russia, in particular, be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart, to bring about its conversion and to stop the spread of its errors.

Joseph Stalin

After Lenin died, Joseph Stalin became the communist dictator of the USSR from 1922 to 1953. Stalin expanded the secret police, and sent millions of people to be killed or to the gulags (prison camps). In the late 1930s,

he instituted what is known as the Great Purge, which were killings designed to rid the Communist government of all threats. In addition to those executed, millions died from famine caused by forced collectivized farming. Stalin was responsible for at least 20 million deaths. Because of the secretive nature of many of the killings, it is hard to know exactly how many were killed. Estimates range between 20 and 70 million people.

Turmoil throughout Europe continued throughout World War II (1939-1945). During this time, many saints of the Church worked for mercy and human rights.

The Second Vatican Council

A Church council was announced by Pope John XXIII on Jan. 25, 1959. The Second Vatican Council, sometimes called Vatican II, called for a renewal of the Catholic Faith in the world today. The 21st council in Church history, Vatican II was held between 1962 and 1965. The council produced 16 documents with the purpose of clarifying doctrine and giving guidance for evangelization in the modern world.

A 20th century ecumenical movement helped by Vatican II has been a force for increased understanding among Christian communities. The Church acknowledges that other religions

contain elements of sanctification, while not straying from the truth that the Church contains the fullness of the faith. The Vatican II Decree on Ecumenism explains: “For it is through Christ’s Catholic Church alone, which is the universal help toward salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained. It was to the apostolic college alone, of which Peter is the head, that we believe that our Lord entrusted all the blessings of the New Covenant, in order to establish on earth the one Body of Christ into which all those should be fully incorporated who belong in any way to the People of God” (CCC 816).

One 20th-century pope who took part in the Second Vatican Council as a bishop, Pope St. John Paul II, faced down communism from his earliest days. Ultimately, through prayer and his Christ-like response, he helped to bring down the Soviet Union and to end the Cold War in 1991.

The right to religious liberty

And as the Second Vatican Council would affirm in the mid-20th century, all people have the right to religious liberty. “To be human, ‘man’s response to God by faith must be free, and therefore nobody is to be forced to embrace the faith against his will. The act of faith is of its very nature a free act’” (CCC 160).

Individual/event	List key information about this individual/event	Write a summary statement explaining the significance of this individual/event
Bolsheviks		
Our Lady of Fátima		

Individual/event	List key information about this individual/event	Write a summary statement explaining the significance of this individual/event
Joseph Stalin		
Second Vatican Council		

Reflection Question

We have different technologies, speak different languages, and live different lifestyles from the earliest Christians, but how different is our mission from the mission of those who lived at the same time as Jesus? Is it any different at all? Explain on your own paper.

Documents on Catholic Social Teaching

Directions: Research the documents below and provide a short summary of the key points of each. Remember that the Church has no authority to change doctrine, which the Church has received from Jesus Christ. That means that none of the ideas in the documents below were “new” at the time they were written. Rather these ideas were being defined and clarified for the people of that time and thereafter to understand them better.

Rerum Novarum, On the Condition of Labor, by Pope Leo XIII, 1891

“Workers are not to be treated as slaves; justice demands that the dignity of human personality be respected in them. ... Gainful occupations are not a mark of shame to man, but rather of respect, as they provide him with an honorable means of supporting life.”

Key points:

- › _____
- › _____
- › _____
- › _____
- › _____

In your own words:

Gaudium et Spes, Joy and Hope, The Church in the Modern World, Second Vatican Council, 1965

“People are of greater value for what they are than for what they have. Technical progress is of less value than advances towards greater justice, wider kinship and a more humane social environment. Technical progress may supply the material for human advance but it is powerless to achieve it.”

Key points:

- > _____
- > _____
- > _____
- > _____
- > _____

In your own words:

Evangelium Vitae, the Gospel of Life, Pope St. John Paul II, 1995

“We must protect and promote ‘a new culture of human life.’ The direct and voluntary taking of all innocent human life is ‘always gravely immoral.’”

Key points:

- > _____
- > _____
- > _____
- > _____
- > _____

In your own words:

Deus Caritas Est, God Is Love, by Pope Benedict XVI, 2005

“A pure and generous love is the best witness to the God in whom we believe and by whom we are driven to love. A Christian knows when it is time to speak of God and when it is better to say nothing and to let love alone speak. He knows that God is love.”

Key points:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

In your own words:

Laudato Si, Praise Be to You, by Pope Francis, 2015

“When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected.”

Key points:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

In your own words:
