

History of the Catholic Church: From the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium

James Hitchcock



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History of the Catholic Church: From the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium James Hitchcock The Catholic Church is the longest-enduring institution in the world. Beginning with the first Christians and continuing in our present day, the Church has been planted in every nation on earth.

The Catholic Church claims Jesus Christ himself as her founder, and in spite of heresy from within and hostility from without, she remains in the twenty-first century the steadfast guardian of belief in his life, death, and resurrection. The teachings and redemptive works of Jesus as told in the Gospels are expressed by the Church in a coherent and consistent body of doctrine, the likes of which cannot be found in any other Christian body.

The history of the Catholic Church is long, complicated, and fascinating, and in this book it is expertly and ably told by historian James Hitchcock. As in the parable of Christ about the weeds that were sown in a field of wheat, evil and good have grown together in the Church from the start, as Hitchcock honestly records. He brings before us the many characters--some noble, some notorious--who have left an indelible mark on the Church, while never losing sight of the saints, who have given living testimony to the salvific power of Christ in every age.

This ambitious work is comprehensive in its scope and in incisive in its understanding, a valuable addition to any school or home library.

"The gap in knowledge of history and current events sadly extends to us Catholics in our grasp of the Faith and the rich history of the Church. In his ambitious new work, *History of the Catholic Church from the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium*, James Hitchcock has given us an accessible tool to better our understanding...and love for the history of the Church. To love the Church, we must understand her history. As Blessed Pope John XXIII remarked, 'History is our best teacher.' Thank you, Dr. Hitchcock, for this timeless gift to the Church for the Year of Faith."

- Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York

"James Hitchcock is one of the few historians alive today with the background and ability to present the twomillenium history of the Catholic Church. In this remarkable volume Hitchcock brings a lifetime of insights and research to this important subject. It is a work of erudition in which the reader will discover not only the importance of the Catholic Church in past centuries, but in our own time."

- Thomas F. Madden, Ph.D. Director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University

"This book, by one of the premier American Catholic historians, is clearly addressed to a broad audience. It is apologetic in the best sense, written from the point of view of a practicing Catholic, and addresses the various questions that would occur to a lay reader inevitably influenced by views found in the larger culture. The book is well written. It is not burdened down with details or many footnotes, but is attached to a strong narrative line centering on meaning. It would therefore be appropriate to study groups."

- Glenn W. Olsen, emeritus Professor of History, University of Utah

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