

Name _____

The History of the Catholic Church

Chapter 2 Directed Reading Worksheet

The Church Grows in the Midst of Persecution

Date _____

Directions: Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequential to the chapter. If a true/false statement is false, correct it.

Introduction: *The Church under Roman Rule* (pages 33-34)

1. The Church continued to _____, spread, and develop during the first _____ centuries in spite of the fact that the vast _____ of Christians lived under the _____ government that considered Christianity _____. Courageous Christian heroes _____ their fellow Christians by remaining steadfast through _____ with many becoming _____ for the faith.
2. How did the openness to Christianity after it was legalized in the fourth century help her to further evolve?

Section 1: *Christianity Is Made Illegal in the Roman Empire* (pages 35-38)

3. The Council of _____ determined that Gentiles could be accepted into the _____. Following the council, Christians _____ themselves from those Jews who did not view Jesus as the _____ and Lord by their religious _____ and their outreach to _____. Once it gained more Gentile followers, the Roman _____ declared Christianity to be _____.
4. True or False? Most Romans were Jewish so Roman leaders felt the need to maintain control over Gentiles.
5. The _____ of Christians living in Rome was prompted by a _____ that swept through the city in AD 64 – a fire caused by the emperor _____ according to a historian name _____ – a devastating conflagration for which they were _____. Because the local Christian group was so _____ and so lacking in power or _____, it was unable to effectively defend itself against the _____.
6. True or False? Peter and Paul were martyred during the intense persecutions of Rome between the years 64 and 67.
7. List five factors that led the Roman government to conclude that Christians were subversive.
8. True or False? The “secret” meetings the Christians were accused of holding were actually the celebration of the Passover.

9. Through their refusal to worship the _____ and idols – since it violated the First Commandment – along with other objectionable _____, Roman authorities believed that Christians were not only _____ the Roman state, but resisting the _____ of Roman law. Essentially, the _____ of Christians put them at odds with the _____ of pagan Rome.
10. True or False? In the second century, as the internal structure of the Roman Empire weakened, the persecution of Christians decreased in intensity.
11. Explain three reasons Christianity grew during this era.

Section 2: Persecutions Lead to Martyrdom (pages 39-44)

12. True or False? While Christianity was formally illegal during the mid-first century to the early fourth century, there were some periods when the law was either ignored or not enforced.
13. True or False? The harsh treatment of Christians tended to be more frequent in the outlying areas of the Empire rather than in the densely populated areas of the Roman Empire.
14. Why was the Book of Revelation written with coded language?
15. True or False? The persecution of Christians under the emperor Trajan was less severe than the persecution under the emperor Decius.
16. Who were the *lapsi* and what did Christians have to decide about them once the persecutions later abated?
17. In what ways were the persecutions under Diocletian more ferocious than most?
18. Martyrdom was seen as the _____ price that Christians could pay for their _____ to the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans were _____ by them. For their part, early Christians had a difficult _____ to maintain: their faith compelled them to _____ the Good News of Christ, including _____ when necessary. They gained great _____ from the witness of these martyrs.

19. What controversy erupted involving military service. What were the results?
20. True or False? One of the ways that local churches recognized the martyrs was by having a priest say Mass over their burial places.
21. What were the last words of Perpetua to the gladiator who killed her?

Section 3: *The Church Grows in the First Three Centuries* (pages 45-51)

22. Despite of _____, Christianity grew steadily in numbers and _____. Churches sprang up throughout the empire as Christians _____ their celebration of the Mass and _____ from homes to settings that allowed for more of a sense of God's _____. Luke concludes the Acts with Paul in _____, a sign that Christianity had moved into the _____, social, and cultural _____ of the Roman Empire.
23. What are four central reasons Christianity enjoyed astounding growth?
24. True or False? When Jewish Christians like Paul set out to preach the Gospel to the Jews of the Diaspora, they were able to use the temples as a home base.
25. True or False? The common language and culture of the empire helped missionaries preach and travel around the empire.
26. Explain how Christianity appealed to people searching for spiritual meaning at the time.
27. The _____ Fathers of the Church helped to _____ the faith prior to the decriminalization of Christianity. For instance, _____ had to learn about the faith and be _____ into the Church in secret. To aid the process, the _____, a first- century catechetical document was written and included the

_____ formula for baptism, a list of _____ teachings, and an explanation of the _____ of Baptism and Eucharist.

28. Justin _____, a convert from _____, is a famous Christian apologist from the _____ century. Apologists were writers who _____ and explained Christianity to _____, primarily Gentiles. They were especially interested in addressing the _____, Roman officials, and Roman _____ . Justin wrote his First Apology to the emperor _____ .
29. What was the important work of the Church Fathers?
30. True or False? The Church Fathers gave accounts of what they believed and practiced to others outside the Church and in doing so reflected more deeply on what God did in Jesus Christ.
31. True or False? During this period of Church history *Sacred Scripture* was brought together, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as an authoritative witness to the faith.

Identify which of the early saints is described below.

32. A disciple of St. Polycarp, he condemned various heresies which denied Jesus' divinity.
33. A disciple of the Apostle John, he continued to preach the Christian faith while on his way to Rome for execution in the amphitheater.
34. His early education included the philosophy of the Ancient Greek Philosophers which helped him demonstrate how the Christian moral life is supported by philosophy.
35. A bishop in northern Africa, he was a convert to Christianity and was deeply involved in the various controversies within the Church, including how to treat the lapsi.
36. As a bishop, he refused to renounce his belief in Jesus and to worship the emperor and other Roman gods.
37. He made the first known reference to the "Catholic Church" and wrote seven letters to the churches along his way to execution in Rome.
38. In defending orthodox teaching within the Church, he supported the importance of the unity of the bishops.

Section 4: *The Development of Sacraments and Sacred Leadership* (pages 52-55)

39. What were the common practices and beliefs of local churches throughout the Roman Empire during this era of history?
40. Christian _____ in the early Church – known as the _____ – included the Sacraments of _____, Confirmation, and Eucharist. A _____ typically testified to the candidate's good _____ and renunciation of _____ ways because becoming a Christian was taken very seriously. Preparation could last _____ years when the candidate would learn Christian _____ and the requirements for _____ living.
41. True or False? Sabbath observance initially took place in people's homes and later in churches.
42. True or False? During the worship celebrations, catechumens delivered homilies that showed how God brought the Old Testament to fulfillment in Jesus Christ.
43. While _____ wipes away all sin, the Sacrament of _____ is for sins committed after Baptism. Christ gave the _____ the "ministry of reconciliation" and the _____ and practice developed that only the _____ could offer absolution from _____ sins. _____ could only be offered once and only after the _____ performed long, arduous penances.
44. True or False? By instituting the Twelve Apostles in the structure of a college, Jesus established the basic organizational structure of the Church.
45. True or False? The common priesthood is different from the ministerial priesthood of the baptized in that it confers a sacred power for the service of the faithful.
46. What were the chief tasks of the Apostles? What privilege did they enjoy?
47. True or False? Priests in the early Church helped the Apostles to carry out their work with the poor and sick.
48. What were the main responsibilities of the *episkopoi*?
49. Early on there was little _____ between bishops and the elders known as _____. As the Church grew the office of bishop was more clearly _____ from that of the _____ and by the mid-second century the contemporary order of the _____ formed with the _____ at the top.
50. True or False? Both priests and deacons were subordinate to the bishop with priests presiding at the Eucharist in place of the bishop and deacons who served the various needs of the local churches.
51. Explain the importance of the bishop of Rome in the early Church.