

The history of the "visible church" directly relates to the 7 "periods"

You cannot study "church history" without studying Roman Catholicism. The Roman church declared supremacy over all the other churches circa 300 AD, and the "history of the visible church", from that point until the Protestant Reformation of the 1500's, is the history of the "Roman Catholic Church".

Here is a list of Roman Catholic "traditions", and the dates of their adoption, compiled by Dr. Jack L. Arnold, and posted at URL http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/jac_arnold/CH.Arnold.RMT.1.html :

Bear in mind, that there was no Catholic Church, and no Bishop of the church at Rome had publicly claimed superiority over the other churches, until well after 300 AD. (See "The Two Babylons", by Hislop, ch IV, pages 206-208 posted on-line at: <http://philologos.org/eb-ttb/sect1.htm>).

The actual and historical beginning of the Roman Catholic Church, circa 300 AD, began a long line of "traditions" that were adopted by the Roman Catholic Church and which are held to be equal to, or above the Holy Bible. For definitions of these "traditions" that were added to God's Word, see "Catholic Answers", at <http://www.catholic.com>, and the "Catholic Encyclopedia", at <http://www.newadvent.org>:

AD 313-590 during the "Pergamos" period, the church "elevated & married":

1. Prayers for the dead brought into the church at Rome; about 300 AD
2. Making the sign of the cross; 300 AD
3. Religious use of wax candles; about 320 AD
4. Veneration of angels and dead saints, and use of images; 375 AD
5. The Mass as a daily celebration; 394 AD
6. Beginning of the exaltation of Mary, the term "Mother of God" first applied to her by the Council of Ephesus; 431 AD
7. "Priests" began to dress differently from laymen; 500 AD
8. Extreme Unction; 526 AD
9. The doctrine of Purgatory, established by Gregory I; 593 AD

AD 590-1517 during the "Thyatira" period, paganism blended with Christianity:

10. Latin Language, used in prayer and worship, imposed by Gregory I; 600 AD
11. Prayers directed to Mary, dead saints and angels; about 600 AD
- 12. Title of "pope", or universal bishop, was first given to Boniface III by emperor Phocas; 610 AD**
13. Kissing the popes foot, began with Pope Constantine; 709 AD
14. Temporal power of the popes, conferred by Pepin, king of France; 750 AD
15. Worship of the cross, images and relics, authorized in; 786 AD
16. Holy water, mixed with a pinch of salt and blessed by a priest; 850 AD
17. Worship of St. Joseph; 890 AD
18. College of Cardinals established; 927 AD
19. Baptism of bells, instituted by Pope John XIV; 965 AD
20. Canonization of dead saints, first by Pope John XV; 995 AD
21. Fasting of Fridays and during lent; 998 AD
22. The Mass, developed gradually as a sacrifice, attendance made obligatory in the 11th century AD
23. Celibacy of the priesthood, decreed by Pope Gregory VII (Hildebrand); 1079 AD (**A doctrine of devils, according to 1 Tim. 4:1-3**)

- 24. The Rosary, mechanical praying with beads, invented by Peter the Hermit; 1090 AD
- 25. The Inquisition, instituted by the Council of Verona; 1184 AD
- 26. Sale of Indulgences; 1190 AD
- 27. Transubstantiation of the wafer (Host), proclaimed by Pope Innocent III; 1215 AD
- 28. Auricular Confession of sins to a priest instead of to God, instituted by Pope Innocent III, in the Lateran Council; 1215 AD
- 29. Adoration of the wafer (Host), decreed by Pope Honorius III; 1220 AD
- 30. Bible forbidden to laymen, placed on the Index of Forbidden Books by the Council of Valencia; 1229 AD**
- 31. The Scapular, invented by Simon Stock, an English monk; 1287 AD
- 32. Cup forbidden to the people at communion by Council of Constance; 1414 AD
- 33. Purgatory proclaimed as a dogma by the Council of Florence; 1438 AD
- 34. The doctrine of Seven Sacraments affirmed; 1439 AD
- 35. The Ave Maria (part of the last half was completed 50 years later and approved by Pope Sixtus V at the end of the 16th century); 1508 AD

AD 1517-1730 during the "Sardis" period, the Protestant Reformation:

- 36. Jesuit order founded by Loyola; 1534 AD
- 37. Tradition declared of equal authority with the Bible by the Council of Trent; 1545 AD**
- 38. Apocryphal books added to the Bible by the Council of Trent; 1546 AD**

AD 1730-1900 during the "Philadelphia" period:

- 39. Creed of pope Pius IV imposed as the official creed; 1560 AD
- 40. Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, proclaimed by Pope Pius IX; 1854 AD
- 41. Syllabus of Errors, proclaimed by Pope Pius IX, and ratified by the Vatican Council; condemned freedom of religion, conscience, speech, press, and scientific discoveries which are disapproved by the Roman Church; asserted the Pope's temporal authority over all civil rulers; 1864 AD**
- 42. Infallibility of the Pope in matters of faith and morals, proclaimed by the Vatican Council; 1870 AD**

AD 1900 to present, during the "Laodicean" period:

- 43. Public Schools condemned by Pope Pius XI; 1930 AD
- 44. Assumption of the Virgin Mary (bodily ascension into heaven shortly after her death), proclaimed by Pope Pius XII; 1950 AD.

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