

The Church Faces Challenges

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 15*.

- ❖ Church history reveals many human decisions—some turned out well, others did not. The Church is both human and divine, and we trust the Holy Spirit to lead us.

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- ❖ Many problems in the Church were caused by the pope living in France. Saint Catherine of Siena was able to persuade the pope to move back to Rome. Later, two men claimed to be pope. One lived in France and the other in Rome. This internal division in the Church was known as the Great Western Schism.

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- ❖ Today, Vatican City is an independent sovereign nation. This prevents any country from claiming ownership or authority over the papacy.

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- ❖ Because of the extreme suffering of people during the epidemic called the Black Death, people thought and prayed about the passion and death of Jesus and the sorrows of Mary.

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- ❖ Through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Jesus continues to reach out to those who are seriously ill. Using the Oil of the Sick, blessed by a bishop, a priest may anoint the sick person on the forehead and the palms of the hands.

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- ❖ One common practice in the Church that bothered Martin Luther was the selling of indulgences. Indulgences are the remission of temporal punishment due to sins that have been forgiven. Some Church leaders sold indulgences in order to gain riches for themselves and the Church.

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- ❖ Martin Luther said that salvation cannot be earned and that faith alone saves us. Some of Luther's ideas departed from the Church in significant ways, such as believing that Scripture alone should guide us. Because of many differences with the Catholic Church, he formed the Lutheran Church. Its creed, the Augsburg Confession, was written in 1531.

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- ❖ After the Lutheran Church was formed, large communities separated from full communion with the Catholic Church. The appearance of these separate Christian communities is known as the Protestant Reformation.

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- ❖ In 1998, the Catholic Church and the Lutheran World Federation agreed that we are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus and, as a result, are called to do good works.

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- ❖ King Henry VIII wanted his marriage annulled by the pope when his wife was unable to bear him a son. An annulment is a Church declaration that a marriage is invalid. When the pope refused, King Henry VIII formed the Church of England, which is called the Anglican Church. In some countries, such as the United States, it is known as the Episcopal Church.

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