

WORLD & NATION

Events shape 1,000 years of Catholic history

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Here, chronologically, are some of the leading events or individuals that have shaped Catholic history over the past 1,000 years. Catholic News Service editors and writers, in consultation with church historians, developed the list and narrowed it to a selection of 25.

1054: Great Schism. Mutual excommunications harden centuries of growing rift between East and West, dividing mainline Christianity into Orthodox churches of the East and the Latin Church of the West.

1096: Crusades begin. Campaign by Pope Urban II to retake Holy Land from Islam starts almost two centuries of intermittent religious wars there, ending in 1291 with Muslim recapture of Acre. With the Crusades came the birth of military and hospitalier religious orders, rising importance of pilgrimages in religious life and increased East-West trade.

1209-15: Mendicant orders. Itinerant preachers St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic found the Franciscan and Dominican orders, which have deep impact on spiritual and intellectual life of the church and continue to thrive today.

1215: Fourth Lateran Council. Key medieval council formulates doctrine of transubstantiation and makes church reforms, including obligation of annual confession and Communion at Easter time.

1265-73: *Summa Theologiae*. Most notable work of St. Thomas Aquinas, whose theological synthesis would influence Western Christian thought for centuries.

1452-55: Gutenberg Bible. First book printed with movable type marks beginning of mass media, a cultural revolution.

1483-98: Spanish Inquisition. At height of its campaign against heretics under Torquemada, some 2,000 are executed, giving historical basis for later claims of Catholic cruelty and intolerance.

1492: Colonization of America. Columbus' voyage introduces Christianity in New World, starts global missionary expansion to Americas, Africa, Asia, Oceania; it also starts more than four centuries of European political and cultural colonialism.

1500s: Renaissance art. Output of fig-



CNS
Vatican buildings and gardens are seen from atop St. Peter's Basilica. Between 1848-70 nationalist movements in Italy diminished the Papal States, relegating the pope to the tiny enclave known as the Vatican. The Vatican City State, a little more than 108 acres, is the smallest sovereign state in the world.

ures like Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci and others under church patronage exemplifies cultural contribution of the church's embrace of art and architecture as means of religious expression.

1517-21: Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther posts 95 Theses in 1517, challenging errors in preaching of indulgences, is excommunicated four years later. His reform agenda, later systematically institutionalized by Calvin, marks the start of the second major division in Christianity.

1534: Act of Supremacy. Henry VIII establishes Church of England, invoking fullness of power over it by divine right.

1539-40: St. Ignatius of Loyola. Rule is approved for his Society of Jesus, an order with wide influence in church life, especially in education.

1545-63: Council of Trent. The Catholic response to the Reformation brings church reform legislation and spells out Catholic teaching on doctrines under challenge from the Reformation. Postconciliar reforms included establishment of seminaries, liturgy reform and universal catechism.

1596: Union of Brest. Agreement uniting Ruthenian Orthodox and Roman

Catholic churches of Poland becomes chief Roman model of restoration of church unity with the Orthodox for nearly 400 years.

1633: Galileo-condemned. Vatican declaration that the heliocentric teaching of Copernican astronomy contradicts Scripture sets a framework of tension and antagonism between church and modern science lasting into 20th century.

1789-1801: French Revolution, Concordat of 1801. Monarchy is overthrown, church disestablished and secular government formed in formerly Catholic state; concordat guaranteeing freedom of worship and letting church name bishops ends wars between anti-Christian and Catholic forces, but papacy condemns principles of the revolution for more than a century.

1850s-1960s: Marian dogmas and devotion. Papal definitions of Mary's Immaculate Conception (1854) and Assumption (1950) and new Marian apparitions (Lourdes 1858, Knock 1879, Fatima 1917) fuel intense Catholic devotion to Mary.

1869-70: First Vatican Council. The first ecumenical council since Trent, it affirms and formally defines the full, ordinary, immediate jurisdiction of the pope over the

whole church and the infallibility of the pope when he solemnly defines Catholic teaching on faith or morals.

1878-1903: Pope Leo XIII. He launches Catholic intellectual revival in 1879 by ordering teaching of the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas in all seminaries; his 1891 encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (on the condition of labor), marks start of modern Catholic social teaching.

1939-45: Holocaust. Hitler's World War II extermination of 6 million Jews provokes profound rethinking, in postwar decades, of Catholic and Christian attitudes toward Jews and Judaism.

1945-90: Rise and fall of communism. Religious persecution that started with Russian Revolution in 1917 reaches its zenith following World War II as communist hegemony spreads across Eastern Europe and into China, North Korea and North Vietnam, creating a new age of martyrs. Communism's collapse in Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union restores religious freedom to millions of believers.

1960-??: Catholic ecumenism. Catholic Church's entry into 20th-century ecumenical movement transforms Catholicism and the whole Christian unity movement. Collaboration, shared prayer, dialogue and joint declarations of common faith replace separatism, apologetics and emphasis on what divides.

1962-65: Second Vatican Council. Reform council seeks to re-engage church in contemporary world and to renew liturgy, Scripture study and virtually every other aspect of Catholic life, including better appreciation of other Christians and other religions; reformulates traditional teachings on religious freedom and the state's role in religious matters.

1978-??: Pope John Paul II. First non-Italian pope since 1523 sets implementation of Vatican II and new evangelization for third millennium as agenda of his pontificate, oversees new codes of church law, new universal catechism, Catholic-Lutheran declaration of agreement on justification. He travels over 700,000 miles, more than all previous popes combined.

Contributing to this report were Lou Panarale in Washington and John Thavis, Cindy Wooden and John Norton in Rome.

CALENDAR

Chemung Schuyler

Health

■ **MON, DEC. 20 — Diabetic support group:** St. Joseph's Hospital, Cusick meeting room, 555 East Market St., Elmira; 7-8 p.m.; also every third Mon.; call Cheryl, 607/737-7800.

■ **WED, DEC. 22 — Widow/widower support group:** St. Joseph's Hospital, executive conference room, 555 East Market St., Elmira; 4 p.m.; also every Wed.; call Connie, 607/733-1084.

Religious Activities

■ **DEC. 17 — Advent Soup & Scripture:** sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Faith formation; Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, Elmira; noon-1 p.m.; for reservations call Maggie, 607/734-0727.

Monroe County

Entertainment

■ **THRU DEC. 26 — Play:** A Christmas Carol; Geva Theatre, 75 Woodbury Blvd., Rochester; for tickets, call 716/232-4382.

■ **FRI, DEC. 17 — Dancing Day:** music for Christmas by Madrigalia, Roger Wilhelm, director; St. Anne Church, 1600 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester; 8 p.m.; \$12/adults, \$10/seniors, \$5/students; 716/234-4283.

■ **SUN, DEC. 19 — Concert:** adult choir and senior handbell choir; Holy Cross Church, 4492 Lake Ave., Rochester; 3 p.m.; donations accepted; 716/663-2244.

■ **SUN, DEC. 19 — Christmas concert:** Gregory Kunde Chorale; Our Lady of Mercy High School auditorium, 1437 Blossom Rd., Rochester; 4 p.m.; donations accepted; 716/377-7568.

Fundraisers

■ **SUN, DEC. 19 — Holiday concert:** Greece Performing Arts Society; to benefit Greece food shelf; St. John the Evangelist Church, 2400 Ridge Rd. West, Greece; 7 p.m.;

non-perishable food item or \$5; 716/234-5636.

Meetings

■ **JAN. — Training:** classes for ombudsman program for residents in nursing homes and adult homes; must be over 21; 716/454-3224, ext. 175.

Religious Activities

■ **DEC. 21-25 — Christmas worship:** St. Jude's Church, 4100 Lyell Rd., Gates; Tue., Advent Penance service, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Christmas Eve Masses, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., midnight; Sat., Christmas Day Masses, 8 & 10 a.m., noon.

■ **TUE, DEC. 21 — Marian Night of Prayer:** Mercy Motherhouse Chapel, 1437 Blossom Rd., Rochester; 7 p.m., divine mercy chaplet, rosary, reconciliation; 7:30 p.m., Mass; Fr. Robert Werth, celebrant; 716/288-2710.

■ **TUE, DEC. 21 — Registration deadline:** for Jan. 1, Sabbath Saturday, "fallow time"; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; also every first Sat.; free; 716/473-6893.

Seneca Cayuga

Fundraisers

■ **THRU DEC. 23 — Gift-wrapping booth:** to benefit St. Joseph's School of Cayuga County; Fingerlakes Mall, Auburn; for hours, call 315/253-2567.

Steuben County

Religious Activities

■ **SUN, DEC. 19 — Televised Mass:** cable channel 13, channel 48; 10-11 a.m.; videotaped Sat. 4:30 p.m.; St. Patrick's Church, Corning.

Tompkins Tioga

Religious Activities

■ **TUE, DEC. 21 — Christmas Memorial Prayer Service:** for those grieving loss of loved one; McAuley Center, St. Patrick's Church, 300 Main St., Owego; 7 p.m.; call Betty or Eamonn, 607/642-3328.

Yates Ontario Wayne

Entertainment

■ **SAT, DEC. 18 — Dancing day:** music for Christmas by Madrigalia; United Methodist Church, Canandaigua; 7 p.m.; \$12/adults, \$10/seniors, \$5/students; 716/396-0087.

Social Activities

■ **NOV.-JAN. 2 — Holiday light show:** Sonnenberg Gardens, 151 Charlotte St., Canandaigua; 5:30-9 p.m.; \$6.50/adults, \$3.50/children, 4-12; 716/394-492.