

Maranatha Bible Church 2020

Equipping Hour: Church History II (1054 AD – 1291 AD)

Week 5: The Church Splits and Crusades Begin

Introduction

Eastern and Western churches (Greek and Latin respectively) had been in a declining relationship for many years starting with the addition to the Nicene Creed. As many in the church were constantly looking to Rome's Pope, the Eastern church was getting more and more unsettled. They could not sustain the language barriers, their physical locations being so far apart and their differences in practices. The schism in 1054 was not something that just happened, it was something that had been happening for over 500 years and finally came to fruition.

42 years after the schism in 1096 the first Crusade would be sent to Jerusalem. The Crusades were a series of religious wars between Christians and Muslims started primarily to secure control of holy sites considered sacred by both groups. In all, eight major Crusade expeditions occurred between 1096 and 1291. The bloody, violent and often ruthless conflicts propelled the status of European Christians, making them major players in the fight for land in the Middle East.

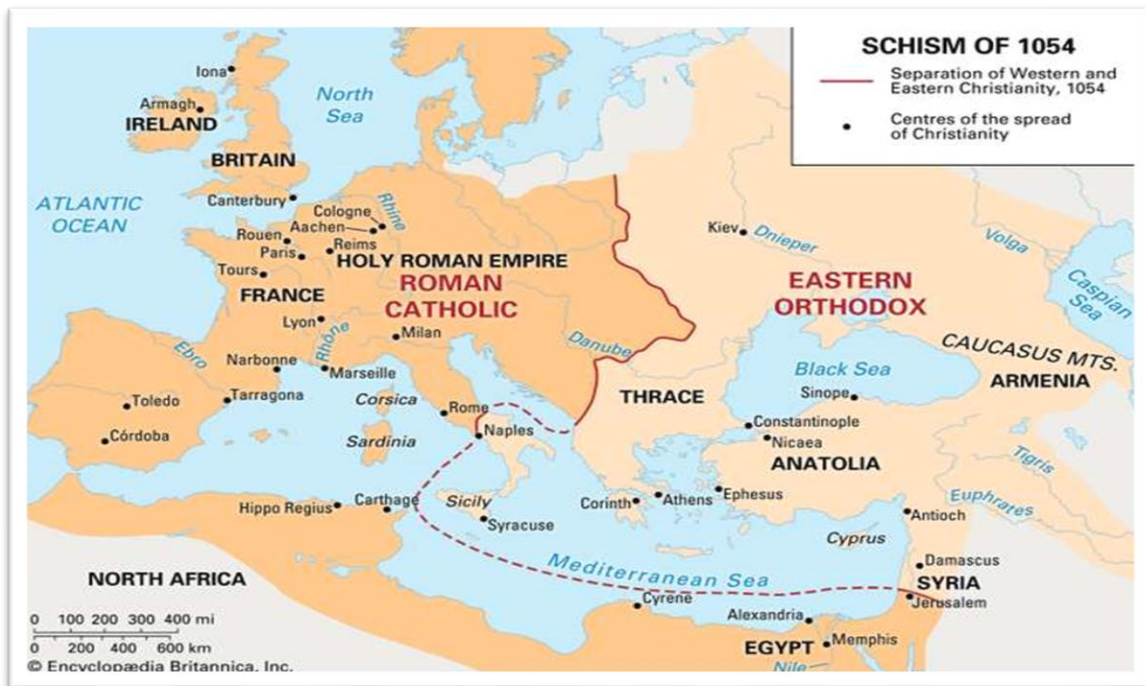
The Crusades are the greatest blight on Christianity, though it is hard to say it was a "Christian" endeavor. They were whole heartedly the exact opposite of what Christianity stood for and represent a time in history when the "church" sought worldly power. There is much to learn from the Crusades so that we do not make the same mistake even today.

The Great Schism (1054)

Why the Split?

1. *Filioque*, "from the Son."
 - a. We talked about this briefly last week, and even though certainly not the only reason but surely compounded the issues.
 - b. In AD 589, at the Council of Toledo, the Western church officially adopted the phrase and amended the Nicene Creed (from 325/381) accordingly.
 - c. Since 589, the churches in the West have said the extra Latin word when reciting the creed. Christ's teaching in **John 16:7** offers biblical warrant for the phrase.
 - d. Eastern churches, however, never appreciated that argument.
2. The Eastern churches, while affirming the Trinity as three persons in one substance, tend to emphasize the "threeness" of the Trinity, the individual persons.
 - a. The West, again while affirming the orthodox definition of the Trinity, tends to emphasize the unity of the Godhead.
 - b. It was not so much that they were not seeing eye to eye on the theological definition, but what they were emphasizing was different.

- c. Just like we would agree with our Arminian brothers that man is totally depraved theologically, but we would depart from them as they believe that there is goodness in man before God acts upon him.
3. In 1052, the Greek Orthodox patriarch of Constantinople, Cerularius, decided to force the Latin churches in his diocese to use the Greek language and liturgical practices; when they refused to do so, he ordered them closed.
 - a. He was tired of Rome's constant power struggle and most think that he was seeking out a split with Rome to secure his own power.
4. The final controversy was over the use of unleavened bread while taking the Lord's supper.¹
 - a. Originally, both the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Churches used leavened bread, leavened with yeast.
 - b. Midway through the first millennium the practice of using unleavened bread became increasingly common in the Latin Church, until it became the general custom.
 - i. This change was prompted by a desire to more closely associate the celebration of the Eucharist with Christ's final Passover meal, the Last Supper.
 - c. The Eastern Churches, in contrast, preferred to continue using leavened bread.
 - i. This is because in the Byzantine empire unleavened bread was associated with lifelessness, while the rising of leavened bread was associated with resurrection.
 - ii. There is one notable exception to this: the Armenian Church, which according to some sources used unleavened bread since the early centuries and continues to do so.
5. On July 16th, 1054, the Roman ambassadors put a decree of excommunication of the patriarch and his followers on the high altar of the cathedral church of Saint Sophia in Constantinople.
 - a. In response, Cerularius convened a Holy Synod and excommunicated the Pope of Rome and all the ambassadors whom he had sent.



¹ https://east2west.org/sp_faq/leavened-and-unleavened-bread/ 08/19/2020

6. From this time on, though there would be flashes of “unity”, there were two “churches” operating in the world, the RCC and the Greek Orthodox.
 - a. This mutual excommunication would not be removed until Dec. 7th, 1965.
 - b. Meeting in Jerusalem, Pope Paul VI and Athenagoras, who was initially the Greek archbishop in North America and subsequently was the 268th Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, from 1948 to 1972, began the reconciliation process.

Consequences of the Schism

7. The two churches had always mingled, there were some Latin churches where the Greeks were dominant and vice versa.
 - a. With the split, the Greek speaking had to take on Latin and those under the control of Rome had to fall under the leadership of Constantinople.
8. One such movement was the Moravian church.
 - a. The name Moravian identifies the fact that this historic church had its origin in ancient Bohemia and Moravia in what is the present-day Czech Republic.
 - b. In the mid-ninth century these countries converted to Christianity chiefly through the influence of two Greek Orthodox missionaries, Cyril and Methodius.
 - c. They translated the Bible into the common language and introduced a national church ritual. In the centuries that followed, Bohemia and Moravia gradually fell under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Rome, but some of the Czech people protested.
 - i. One of the chief protesters was for the Czech people was Jon Huss (1369-1450). He would be instrumental in leading the Czech people against the RCC.
9. Also, right before the schism in 955 AD, a princess named Olga accepted Christianity. She would become the first Russian convert on record.
 - a. By her sharing of the gospel, her grandson Vladimir, was born again in 988. This event is commonly used to mark the beginning of the Eastern Orthodox Church in Russia.

The Crusades (1095-1291)² The Cross Vs. The Crescent

1. The Crusades, which took place from 1095 to 1291, are undoubtedly one of the most bizarre detours the church ever took, removing the church far from its fundamental goals.
2. The Crusades consisted of eight military expeditions established for the purpose of recapturing the Holy Land from the Turks (Muslims).
3. Pope Urban II was able to inspire far more zeal than common sense as he encouraged people to leave their European homeland and travel en masse to conquer Palestine.
4. Some of the Crusades were, aborted and never made it to Israel. Others successfully established the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem.
 - a. But the Crusade members were not the chivalrous nobles they were meant to be. They were often unruly, wicked men who stole, pillaged, and raped their way from one city to another.
 - b. They cared not whether the village was Christian or Muslim. They were equal-opportunity villains who destroyed anyone and anything in their way.
 - c. Now almost 1000 years later and on the exact days, repentant Christians travelled the same route, asking forgiveness for what had been done in the name of Christ!

² J.L. Garlow *God and His People*

5. The most peculiar of all the Crusades was the Children's Crusade in the year 1212, in which unsuspecting parents placed their children on ships that they believed would be guided to the Holy Land, where Muslims would naturally surrender to an army of children.
 - a. The wicked ship owners had other intentions. Hundreds of children were sold into slavery!
6. How could the Pope get people to do this sort of anti-Christian act?
 - a. "I say it to those who are present. I command that it be said to those who are absent. Christ commands it. All who go hither and lost their lives, be in on the road or on the sea, or in the fight against the pagans, will be granted immediate forgiveness for their sins. This I grant to all who will march, by virtue of the great gift which God has given to me." Pope Urban II 1095³
 - i. It was at the Council of Clermont in southern France Pope Urban II called on Western Christians to take up arms to aid the Byzantines and recapture the Holy Land from Muslim control. This marked the beginning of the Crusades.
 - b. Because people did not know Latin and were generally uneducated, they simply believed what the Pope told them.
7. Pope Urban's plea was met with a tremendous response, both among the military elite as well as ordinary citizens. Those who joined the armed pilgrimage wore a cross as a symbol of the Church.
8. The Crusades set the stage for several religious knightly military orders, including the Knights Templar, the Teutonic Knights, and the Hospitallers. These groups defended the Holy Land and protected pilgrims traveling to and from the region.
 - a. **Knights Templar:** they were members of the Poor Knights of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, a religious military order of knighthood established at the time of the Crusades that became a model and inspiration for other military orders.
 - i. Originally founded to protect Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land, the order assumed greater military duties during the 12th century. Its prominence and growing wealth, however, provoked opposition from rival orders.⁴
 - b. **Teutonic Knights / Hospitallers:** In 1189–90, when crusading forces were besieging Acre, some German merchants from Bremen and Lübeck formed a fraternity to nurse the sick there.
 - i. After the capture of Acre (1191), this fraternity took over a hospital in the town and began to describe itself as the Hospital of St. Mary of the German House in Jerusalem.
 - ii. Pope Clement III approved it, and it adopted a rule like that of the original Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (i.e., the Knights of Malta).⁵
9. **First Crusade (1096-99)**⁶
 - a. After the East asked for help from the West, the sent troops over to help get the Muslims out of Jerusalem. The patriarch of Constantinople was going to claim any land that they laid siege to and took from the Muslims, but the RCC was able to keep control.
 - b. Encamping before Jerusalem in June 1099, the Christians forced the besieged city's governor to surrender by mid-July.
 - c. Despite Tancred's promise of protection, the Crusaders slaughtered hundreds of men, women, and children in their victorious entrance into Jerusalem.

³ <https://salemcc.instructure.com/courses/451/pages/speech-of-urban-ii-at-the-council-of-clermont-november-26-1095> 08/19/2020

⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Templars>

⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Teutonic-Order>

⁶ <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-ages/crusades>

- d. Another group of Crusaders, led by the notorious Count Emicho, carried out a series of massacres of Jews in various towns in the Rhineland (W. Germany) in 1096, drawing widespread outrage and causing a major crisis in Jewish-Christian relations.

10. **Second Crusade (1147-49)**⁷

- a. Having achieved their goal in an unexpectedly short period of time after the First Crusade, many of the Crusaders departed for home.
 - i. To govern the conquered territory, those who remained established four large western settlements, or Crusader states, in Jerusalem, Edessa, Antioch and Tripoli.
- b. Guarded by formidable castles, the Crusader states retained the upper hand in the region until around 1130, when Muslim forces began gaining ground in their own holy war (or jihad) against the Christians, whom they called “Franks.”
- c. In 1144, the Seljuk general Zangi, governor of Mosul, captured Edessa, leading to the loss of the northernmost Crusader state.
- d. News of Edessa’s fall stunned Europe and caused Christian authorities in the West to call for another Crusade. Led by two great rulers, King Louis VII of France and King Conrad III of Germany, the Second Crusade began in 1147.

11. **Fourth Crusade: The Fall of Constantinople**⁸

- a. Though Pope Innocent III called for a new Crusade in 1198, power struggles within and between Europe and Byzantium drove the Crusaders to divert their mission in order to topple the reigning Byzantine emperor, Alexius III, in favor of his nephew, who became Alexius IV in mid-1203.
- b. The new emperor’s attempts to submit the Byzantine church to Rome was met with stiff resistance, and Alexius IV was strangled after a palace coup in early 1204.
- c. In response, the Crusaders declared war on Constantinople, and the Fourth Crusade ended with the devastating Fall of Constantinople, marked by a bloody conquest, looting and near-destruction of the magnificent Byzantine capital later that year.

12. **The Crusades End**⁹

- a. In 1291, one of the only remaining Crusader cities, Acre (N. Israel), fell to the Muslim Mamluks. Many historians believe this defeat marked the end of the Crusader States and the Crusades themselves.
- b. Though the Church organized minor Crusades with limited goals after 1291—mainly military campaigns aimed at pushing Muslims from conquered territory, or conquering pagan regions—support for such efforts diminished in the 16th century, with the rise of the Reformation and the corresponding decline of papal authority.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

Effects of the Crusades

13. Trade and transportation improved throughout Europe as a result of the Crusades.
 - a. The wars created a constant demand for supplies and transportation, which resulted in ship-building and the manufacturing of various supplies.
14. After the Crusades, there was a heightened interest in travel and learning throughout Europe, which some historians believe may have paved the way for the Renaissance.
 - a. The Renaissance was a fervent period of European cultural, artistic, political and economic “rebirth” following the Middle Ages.
 - i. Generally described as taking place from the 14th - 17th century, the Renaissance promoted the rediscovery of classical philosophy, literature and art.
 - ii. Some of the greatest thinkers, authors, statesmen, scientists and artists in human history thrived during this era, while global exploration opened up new lands and cultures to European commerce.
15. Followers of Islam saw the Crusaders as immoral, bloody and savage. The ruthless and widespread massacre of Muslims, Jews and other non-Christians resulted in bitter resentment that persisted for many years.
 - a. Today, Muslims cynically refer to the West’s involvement in the Middle East as a “crusade.”

Inquisition (1100-1300)¹⁰

1. Anyone who did not accept the *organizational* structures of the all-powerful Roman Catholic hierarchy and bureaucracy was named a heretic.
 - a. People who disagreed in the slightest ways with the church were tried and tortured. This systematic torturing of people was referred to as the Inquisition, which took place during the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries.
 - b. Prior to the Inquisition, the church had been in the habit of excommunicating heretics; but with the advent of the Inquisition, more dramatic measures followed: confiscation of property, torture, and/or death or execution.
 - c. The leaders of the RCC unleashed their disapproval on 3 kinds of groups:
 - i. **anti-institutional groups**—people who organized in a way contrary to the established structures of the Roman church;
 - ii. **ascetic groups**—highly disciplined, pious communities who advocated strong accountability in the Christian life;
 - iii. **enthusiasts**—passionate zealous, excited Christians (Peter Waldo and the Waldensians, for example, were condemned as heretics).
2. One historian estimated that over the course of its history the Spanish Inquisition tried a total of 341,021 people, of whom at least 10 percent (31,912) were executed.
3. In 1307, Inquisitors were involved in the mass arrest and torture of 15,000 Knights Templar in France, resulting in dozens of executions.
 - a. Joan of Arc, burned at the stake in 1431, is the most famous victim of this wing of the Inquisition.

¹⁰ J.L. Garlow *God and His People*

Lights in the Darkness

Waldensians (1170)¹¹

1. Most histories trace the origin of the Waldensians to Peter Waldo (also called Valdes), a wealthy merchant in Lyons, France.
 - a. In 1174, Waldo renounced his wealth, started giving his money away, and committed to living a life of voluntary poverty from then on.
 - b. In 1176, Waldo became a traveling preacher. Others joined his group, and they became known as the Poor Men of Lyons. While the early Waldensians still considered themselves Roman Catholic, they soon ran into problems with the established church for two reasons: they had no formal training as clergy, and they were handing out Bibles in the vernacular (instead of Latin).
 - c. Church officials told Waldo and his *Pauperes* (“Poor”) to stop preaching without the consent of the local clergy.
2. The Waldensians loved the Bible and insisted that the Bible be their sole authority; at the same time, they publicly criticized the corruption of the Roman Catholic clergy.
3. The Waldensians rejected many of the superstitious traditions of Catholicism, including prayers for the dead and holy water, and they spoke against indulgences and the doctrine of purgatory. Communion, they said, was a memorial of Christ’s death, not a sacrifice.
 - a. They did not follow the church’s calendar concerning days of fasting, and they refused to bow before altars, venerate saints, or treat “holy” bread as holy. In short, ***the Waldensians could be seen as launching a pre-Reformation reform movement.***
4. The Waldensians’ back-to-the-Bible approach appealed to many, and the movement quickly spread rapidly to Spain, northern France, Flanders (N. Belgium), Germany, southern Italy and even Poland and Hungary.
5. But the Catholic Church did not take kindly to the Waldensian call to reform. In 1181 the archbishop of Lyons excommunicated the Waldensians. Three years later, the pope declared them to be heretics.
 - a. In 1215 the Fourth Lateran Council declared an anathema on Waldensian doctrine. The church also pursued the Waldensians in Germany and Northern Italy.
6. Because of the persecution from the RCC, the Waldensians would move into the Alps where they would stay and exist as a people group until the Reformation some 300 years later.
 - a. At the time of the Reformation they were approached by Protestant reformers and asked about their beliefs. They realized they were in agreement with the Protestants and thus the Waldensians became Protestant.
7. In 2015, Pope Francis asked for forgiveness from the Waldensians for the RCC “non-Christian and inhumane” acts which they did to them. He also apologized for trying to “exterminate them.”
 - a. Francis made his plea during the first ever visit by a pope to a Waldensian temple on the second day of a trip to Italy’s northern Piedmont region, the center of the Waldensian Church, which has only about 30,000 followers worldwide.
 - b. Today the Waldensians are part of the World Communion of Reformed Churches and the World Council of Churches. They have only two sacraments, adult baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

¹¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Waldensians.html>

Petrobrusians (1117 A.D. – 1131 A.D.)

1. Groups like the future Anabaptists were beginning to rebel against the RCC with regards to infant baptism. In the 11th and 12th centuries, the Petrobrusians rejected infant baptism.
 - a. Led by Peter of Bruys. He was born in S. France and stood up to the RCC in his day. He had some interesting theology, but firmly believed these five points:
 - i. That persons ought not to be baptized till they come to the use of reason.
 - ii. That it is not proper to build churches, and that such as are built should be pulled down.
 - iii. That the holy crosses should be destroyed.
 - iv. That the body and blood of Christ are not distributed in the sacred supper, but only the sign of them.
 - v. That the sacrifices, prayers and good works of the living do not profit the dead.
 - b. It is not fully known where he learned his anti-RCC theology, but some have speculated that in the mountainous area of S. France he met with others who were protesting the RCC.¹²
 - c. He gained a number of followers by his dynamic and persistent preaching.
 - d. But after approximately twenty years of preaching he was finally arrested, tried, and executed for heresy.
2. The future adult baptizers became known as Anabaptists because they re-baptized believers who had been baptized as infants. They maintained that baptism is only valid if it was a conscious act of faith by the believer.
3. The Anabaptists survived intense persecution and still exist today. From the Anabaptists, the English Baptists came to prominence in the mid-1600s.

Scholasticism¹³

1. During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, an inexplicable quest for learning burned its way through Europe and many universities were created. *Uni* means "one," and *versity* refers to diversity. A university was the gathering of great diversity in one place.
2. This quest for learning was labeled Scholasticism, a complex term with multiple definitions.
 - a. Key questions throughout church history have been these: Reason and faith—are they enemies or allies? Is the Christian faith reasonable, or is it simply a blind leap that is ultimately irrational?
 - b. A major advance in answering these questions came with the emergence of a group of medieval theologians called the Scholastics.
 - c. Prominent among them was **Anselm of Canterbury** (1033–1109) and **Thomas Aquinas** (circa 1225–1274).
3. The University of Paris had its origin in what were called cathedral schools. As the name implies, these schools started in the large churches called cathedrals. A *cathedra* was the seat or chair of the bishop, where he lived and presided.
 - a. Thus, cathedrals were influential churches serving a jurisdiction of smaller churches. The University of Naples was founded by a political leader, Fredrick II, in 1224.

¹² Perhaps in the Pyrenees which stretch from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean coasts in the south of France, marking the border between France and Spain, with the tiny country of Andorra (Believed to have been created by Charlemagne) nestled in the mountains.

¹³ J.L. Garlow *God and His People*

- b. Some universities were founded by towns. Oxford University and the University of Bologna were among the earliest to be founded.
 - c. In time, the universities at Paris and Oxford had residence halls, or dormitories, a totally new concept.
 - d. Generally, only about half the students received degrees.
 - e. Many came to listen to some well-known teacher for a while.
 - f. By the end of the Middle Ages, there were eighty universities.
4. Before there were such centers, talented professors would wander from town to town, tutoring students privately.

Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109)¹⁴

1. Anselm sought to demonstrate the existence and attributes of God by an appeal to reason alone.
 - a. He spoke of an absolute norm above time and space that could be comprehended by the mind of man. That norm was God, the ultimate standard of perfection. Anselm’s so-called Ontological Argument was that the existence of the idea of God necessarily implied the objective existence of God.
 - b. He always insisted, however, that faith must precede reason: “I do not seek to understand in order that I may believe, but I believe in order to understand.”
2. To him is attributed what became known as the “satisfaction theory” of the atonement, which sees God as the offended party and man as the offender.
3. He rejected the view of the Atonement that saw it as the settlement of a lawsuit between God and the devil. Anselm’s hypothesis was that all human beings had sinned in and with Adam.
 - a. God’s honor demanded that every creature should subject itself to him so that his eternal purposes should be completed. Since finite man could never make satisfaction to the infinite God, “no one but one who is God-man can make the satisfaction by which man is saved.”
 - b. The voluntary death of the sinless Christ on the cross was the only way and the only acceptable satisfaction.
4. Acknowledged as the greatest scholar between Augustine and Aquinas, Anselm’s distinctive characteristic was his resort to intellectual reasoning rather than to biblical tests and traditional writings—while still upholding the prime place of faith.

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)¹⁵

1. No one influenced the theology of the Middle Ages more than one overweight Italian. Thomas Aquinas’s large physique earned him the condescending nickname of “Dumb Ox.”
2. But his theological brilliance and passion for Christ later earned him another nickname, “Angelic Doctor.” Educated at the universities of Naples, Paris, and Cologne, Aquinas became a Dominican preacher and scholar and taught in Paris and Rome.
 - a. He attempted to merge the philosophy of Aristotle with biblical theology. His system of thinking is known as Thomism.
 - b. He became the single most influential Roman Catholic scholar until the 1960s.
 - c. Protestants, as a rule, condemn his mix of the Bible and Greek philosophy, complaining that he compromised many Bible doctrines.

¹⁴ *Who’s Who in Christian History* Anselm of Canterbury

¹⁵J.L. Garlow *God and His People*

- d. Aquinas believed that theology was the queen of all sciences and that philosophy should be the servant of theology.
 - e. Philosophy, he believed, *establishes* what theology *assumes*.
 - i. Theology, for example, assumes the existence of God. However, it is the job of philosophy to establish it.
 - ii. Aquinas put great emphasis upon the capacity of human reason.
3. In 1879 there was a major revival of Thomistic influence in the RCC where the Pope was calling for a return to Aquinas's teaching to combat the modernism and agnosticism of that day.
- a. Thus, various Thomistic schools grew up, dominating RCC theology and philosophy until the 1960s, when Aquinas's authority was moderated by the influence of phenomenology¹⁶ and of European biblical theology.
 - b. Although Thomism is not the official Catholic position, Aquinas is held in the highest respect, is diligently studied, and has had a profoundly stabilizing effect on Catholic thought through the centuries.

¹⁶ Experientially known knowledge