



The Church
in Crisis:
the Avignon
Papacy and
the Great
Schism

Consilium (n.)

- Meeting or assembly
- Comes from verb consilio
 - to bring together
 - to unite
 - to unite in thought

Innocent III

Papacy move
to Avignon

Papacy
returns to
Rome

Great
Schism
begins

Martin V
elected

r. 1198-1216

1309

Avignon Papacy

1376

1378

Multiple
Popes =
Great
Schism

1417

Today's focus...

- a) Avignon Papacy (1309-1376): Move of papacy from Rome to Avignon, France “Babylonian Captivity”
- b) Great Schism (1378-1417): Election of Three Popes ended by the Council of Constance

RESULT:

- Growth of National Catholic “church” controlled by monarchies
- Decline of papacy
- Growth of popular religious movements

Being Catholic in the 14th century

- Parish priest
 - Sacraments
 - Mass
 - Teach Nicene Creed
 - Explain Seven Deadly Sins and 10 Commandments
 - Confession and Penance



Training for medieval parish priests

- Apprenticeship
- University
- Cathedral schools
- Problems of recruitment after disasters of 14th century



Can these men and the Church save us from sin?

Can my parish priest act as divine intercessor for me and other Catholics in our parish?



Avignon Papacy (1309-1376)

Why was the papacy in Rome anyway?

Centre of the Roman empire

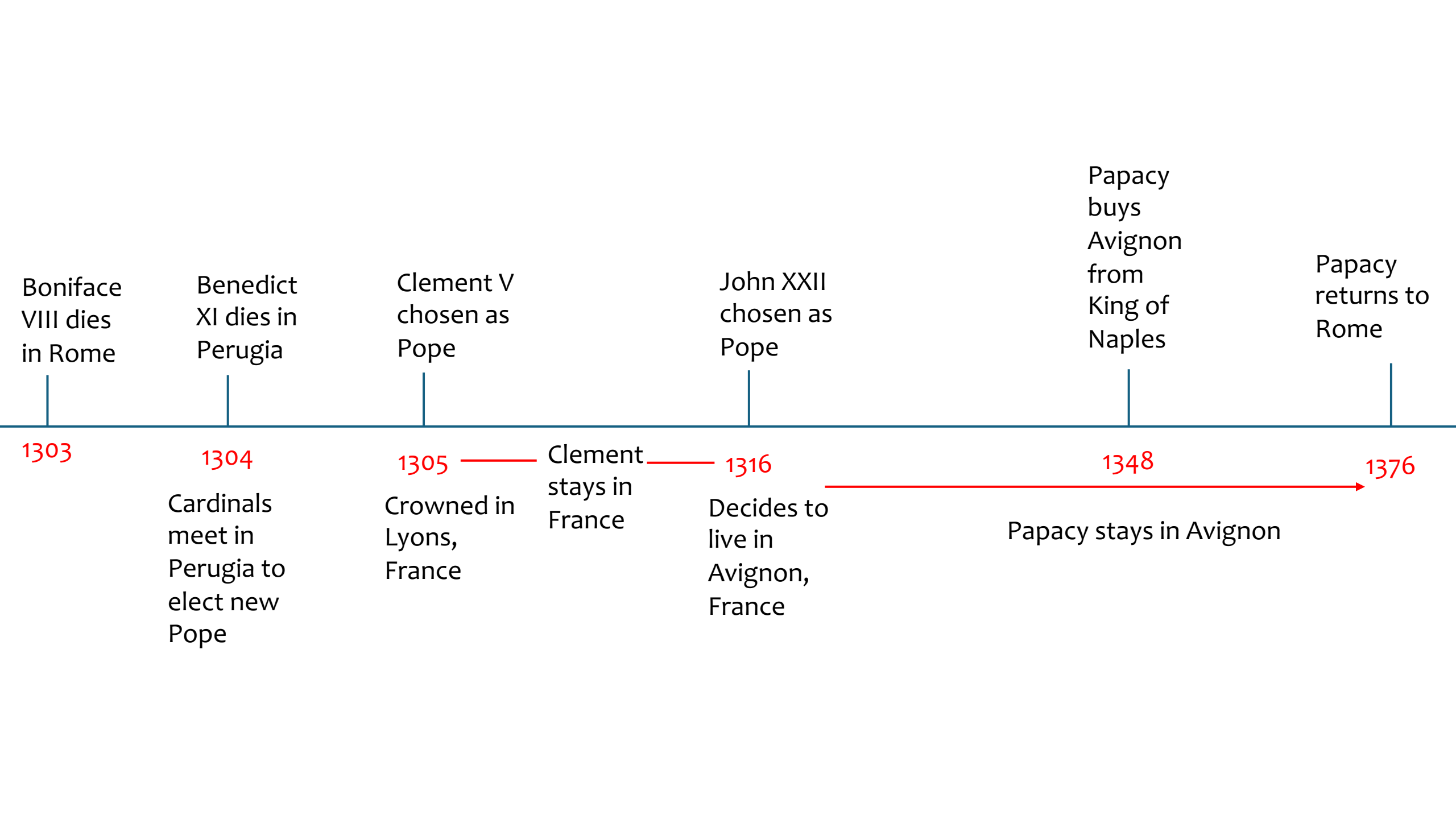
Most important bishopric of the Catholic Church

Where St. Peter crucified (67 c.e.)

Peter as first bishop of Rome “rock” of Christ’s church



Gregory I “The Great” (r. 590-604)



Boniface VIII dies in Rome

1303

Benedict XI dies in Perugia

1304

Cardinals meet in Perugia to elect new Pope

Clement V chosen as Pope

1305

Crowned in Lyons, France

Clement stays in France

John XXII chosen as Pope

1316

Decides to live in Avignon, France

Papacy buys Avignon from King of Naples

1348

Papacy stays in Avignon

Papacy returns to Rome

1376

Avignon as a “better” place?

- Removed papacy from Italian political tensions
- Closer to 4/5th of European population
- More effective bureaucracy
 - Grew from 200 in 13th century to 600 at Avignon







“Babylonian Captivity”

- Image of Rome as a widow (from 1447)
- Term comes from exile of Jews to Babylon in 6th century B.C.E.

Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)

- Dominican tertiary
- Illiterate but dictated 350 letters
- Canonized in 1461
- Wrote numerous letters to Pope Gregory XI in Avignon urging him to return to Rome



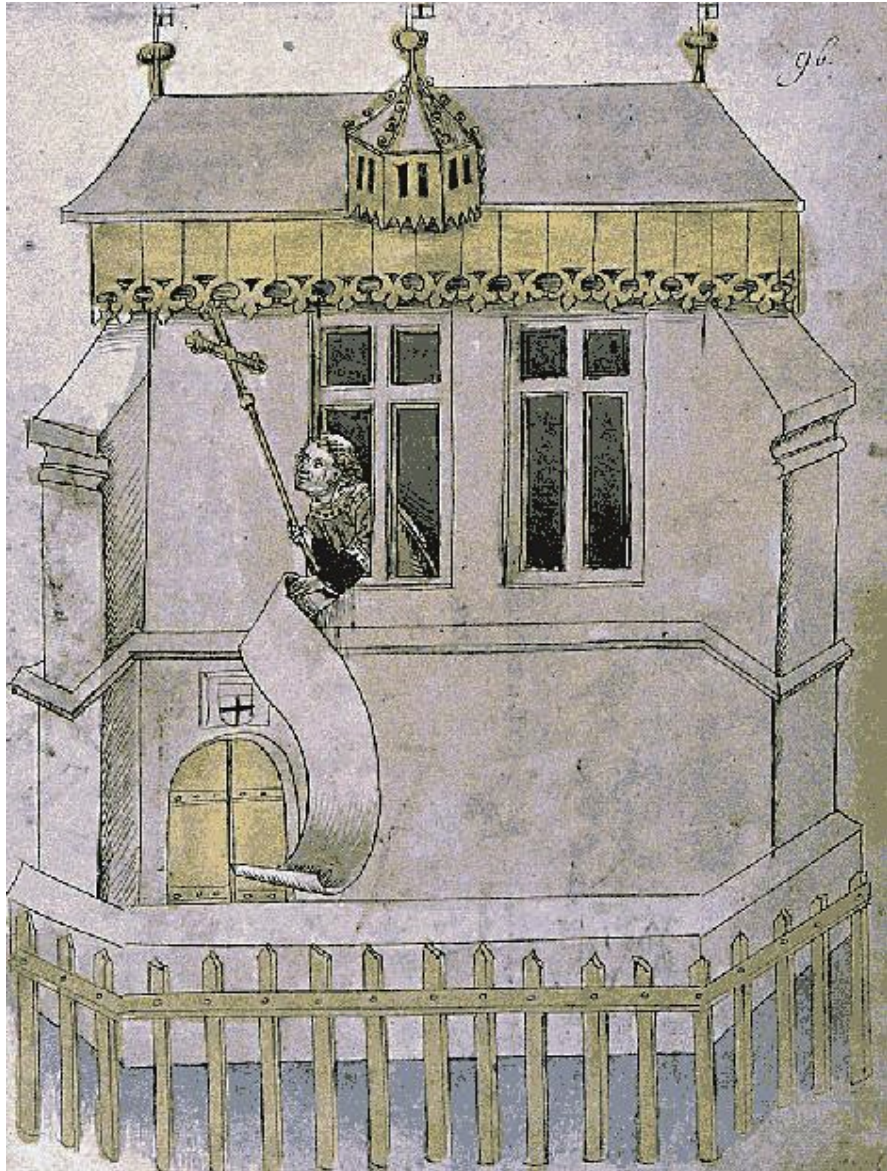
Image of Catherine of Siena and Raymond of Padua (1460s)

“I Caterina, servant and slave of the servants of Jesus Christ and your poor wretched unworthy daughter, am writing to you in his precious blood. I long to see you the sort of true gentle shepherd who takes an example from the shepherd Christ, whose place you hold. He laid down his life for his little sheep in spite of our ingratitude. The hounding, the wrongs, the scorn, the insults of the people he had created and so greatly blessed did not keep him from working out our salvation.”

“Up, father! Put into effect the resolution you have made concerning your return and the crusade. You can see that the unbelievers are challenging you to this by coming as close as they can to take what is yours. Up, to give your life for Christ! Isn't our body the only thing we have? Why not give your life a thousand times, if necessary, for God's honor and the salvation of his creatures? That is what he did, and you, his vicar, ought to be carrying on his work. It is to be expected that as long as you are his vicar you will follow your Lord's ways and example.”



By Giorgio Vasari,
Undated.



The Great Schism, 1378-1417

Election of popes from 1059

- Pope Nicholas II decreed cardinals elect pope (1059)
- BUT great influence of local Italian nobility on elections



Rome supporters = King Richard II of England; Catherine of Siena

Avignon supporters = King Charles V of France, Vicent Ferrer of Valencia

Death of
Gregory
XI

Jan. 1,
1376

Clement VII
Sept. 1378

Benedict XIII
1394

Alexander V
1409

John XXIII
1410

Urban VI
Jan. 1378

Boniface IX
1389

Innocent VIII
1404

Gregory XII
1406

Martin V
1417

Red = Rome

Blue = Avignon

Purple = Pisa



Council of Constance, 1414-1418

- Removed 3 popes
- Chose new one:
Martin V (r. 1417-31)
- John Gerson,
Chancellor of the
University of Paris



Council of Constance, painted 1460s, Germany

Alexander VI: Lowest point of the papacy? (r. 1492-1503)

- Borgia Pope (after his family name)
- Children: Lucrezia, Cesare, Giovanni, Gioffre (with Vanessa dei Cattanei) and maybe Laura (with Guilia Farnese)

