Church History – Chapter 6

(60 mins of material, containing 37.5 mins of videos)

1. Opening Prayer (Our Father)

I. The Role of the Church in Medieval Europe

2. A student reads from a slide on the tv:

After the Roman Empire collapsed and the barbarians invaded, society in general was in a state of confusion and transformation. The only large scale, widespread organization that still had an internal governing structure was the Catholic Church. Because of this—and because of the role of faith, spirituality, and religion in the lives of the people—the Church took on a prominent role in the overall governance of Europe (in conjunction with newly formed kings, dukes, and so on, as part of the new "feudal system").

3. Another student reads from a slide on the tv:

This shift in the Church's role in society, however, led many (though, not all) Church leaders to stray from their primary and fundamental mission to proclaim and live the gospel. And so, the Holy Spirit led the Church to reform itself from the inside out to get back on track. This is one of the strengths of the Church: its ability and willingness to correct its own errors and purify itself in order to stay true to Christ and his mission of salvation. As individual believers, this is a way we are *part of* the Church: we *ourselves* admit our errors and correct ourselves to get back on the right track of being true to Christ and his mission for us.

4. Watch video (10 min, 14 sec):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KwBFRfzNnE

II. The Abbey of Cluny at the Heart of Church Reform

5. Catechist:

During this time of reform and purification in the Church, it was the monasteries where a lot of the reforms began. At the heart of this activity was an abbey in France called the Abbey of Cluny (pronounced "clue-KNEE").

6. Watch a short (34 sec) video:
https://youtube.com/shorts/pK7q1n6-Vv4?is=dkKaJy0VLtV1mH7m

7. A series of students read the paragraphs on **pages 82-83** under the heading "Cluny and Monastic Reform."

8. Watch video (11 min, 35 sec)
https://youtu.be/U8LYs7ehmeM?is=Nkn71kLTOkXjPzRL

IV. The Crusades

9. A series of students read the 4 paragraphs on **page 87** under the heading "The Crusades."

Note: Saracens is pronounced "SARA-sins"
Seljuk is pronounced "SELL-juk" or "SELL-jik"
Seljukian is pronounced "sell-JUK-ee-in"

10. Watch video (8 min)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NL8UFz4L18

11. A student (or catechist) reads from a slide on the tv

It might seem strange that during this time when the Church is purifying and reforming itself, and getting back on the right track again in terms of its mission and purpose, that the Church would also be engaging in warfare, which seems so opposed to Christian ideals. But this is strange to us because we don't live in the Medieval Period. In the mind of the Medieval person, the Crusades were an attempt to advance the mission of Christ, to defeat Christ's enemies, and to rebuild the Kingdom of God on earth. And because of the time period, military force was the logical way to achieve this goal.

So, when we learn about the Crusades today, we have to remember that their underlying motive was fine, but we wouldn't endorse military force today to try to meet our goals. Instead, we rely on the Holy Spirit, evangelization, and Christian witness to "win others for Christ."

V. The Inquisition

12. Catechist:

Another thing the Church did during the Medieval Period to protect and advance the faith is called "The Inquisition." It's similar to the Crusades in that the motives behind the Inquisition were fine, but the methods the Church sometimes used were not Christ-like.

13. A series of students read the 3 paragraphs on **pg 90** under the heading "The Inquistion."

14. Watch video (7 min)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iij6yJHUfFc

VI. Closing Prayer

15. The class can read together the prayer on **pg 93**, the bolded text found directly above the heading "Conclusion."