

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

ON THE HISTORICAL EVIDENCES OF THE TRUTH OF  
OUR DIVINE RELIGION.

We have now, in a small compass, surveyed the history of our Holy Religion, and considered the blessings it has conferred upon mankind from Adam, our first parent, to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and from Him, the Divine Head and Founder of our Church, to His present Vicegerent, Leo XIII. How sublime and beautiful is the Religion we profess! Everything connected with it calls out to us: God alone could have given such a Religion to mankind.

1. Man has not invented it; God Himself has taught it to us, and has commanded us to observe it. He revealed it by holy men in the Old Testament (§§ 6, 11, 7); and in the New, precisely as the Prophecies of the Old Testament had foretold. His Only-Begotten, Eternal Son appeared on earth, and most convincingly confirmed His Divine Doctrine by numerous miracles, especially by His Resurrection from the dead (§§ 21, 22, 23, 26, 27). God has spoken, and no one has a right to be indifferent to His word; to despise or reject it would be to condemn one's self to everlasting hell fire.

2. The Religion to which we belong did not take rise only a few centuries ago; properly speaking, it dates from the beginning of the world. For its first seeds were laid in Paradise when God promised a Redeemer to our First Parents after their fall; and the whole of the Old Law, with its sacrifices and wonderful events, was but a figure of the New Law, which

What have we now surveyed? What have we chiefly considered in the history of our Religion?

1. Whence does our Religion come? By whom has God revealed it to us? How did Jesus Christ confirm His Divine Doctrine? Is it indifferent which religion we profess?

2. How old is our Religion? How do you explain and prove its great age?

contains the fulfilment and accomplishment of the Old (§§ 2, 7, 9, 12, and others). The Old Law believed in the Redeemer to come, and the New believes in Him already come. But it is the same belief in the same Redeemer, and therefore it is essentially the same Religion.

3. Although our Holy Religion is coeval with the beginning of mankind, and its history embraces about six thousand years, yet its beginning is not lost in obscure fables of ancient times; on the contrary, its truth is evident and obvious to all. For it exhibits, from the remotest antiquity down to the present time, an uninterrupted series, as it were, of public and universally known facts and events, which perfectly agree with one another, and with all the monuments of past ages, as also with the annals of the various nations of the world, and with the discoveries made by natural philosophers. They have been so manifestly and irrefragably attested that he who would not believe them might just as well deny any other historical truth. We count, and can even name, the generations exactly as they succeeded one another from Adam to Christ (Luke iii.; Matt. i.), and all the Supreme Pastors or Popes from St. Peter to our Holy Father, Leo XIII., who is now gloriously governing the Church established by the Son of God (§ 47 at the end; and pp. 61-66). What a wonderful concatenation, and what an unparalleled succession!

4. Even the Jews, the most obstinate adversaries of our faith, bear witness to its truth. For they carefully keep upon record, in their Holy Books, the whole history and all the Prophecies of the Old Testament, to which we appeal in order to prove the Divine Origin of Christianity; insomuch that no one can for a moment suppose that the Christians have

3. Is the history of our Religion perhaps uncertain, because it dates from the origin of the world, and embraces so long a period? Why not?

4. What evidence do even the Jews give to the truth of our Religion? What does this prove?

perverted or invented such passages in the Old Testament as refer to our Saviour (§ 17).

5. Nor can it be denied that it is entirely through the mighty help of God that the Christian Religion has spread over the whole earth. The Apostles who first preached it were from the lowest class of the people, poor, unknown, even without eloquence or learning. Their doctrine of the Cross, which contains the inscrutable mysteries of penance, humility, and mortification, was not likely to please the proud and licentious pagans, who found in their abominable mythology (*i.e.*, fabulous history of their gods), not only an excuse, but even a justification, for all their vices. The rich and the great looked with disdain upon the poor fishermen; the witty and the learned derided them; and the mighty rulers of the earth, as even pagan writers testify, took all possible pains to destroy them with fire and sword. During three centuries, persecution and martyrdom were the common lot of the Christians. Nevertheless, the doctrine of the poor fishermen, as we have seen, triumphed over all its enemies, and thus proved to be the Doctrine of God (§§ 29-35). It spread so rapidly that, soon after the death of the Apostles, St. Justin ventured to affirm before the whole world: 'There is no people, neither among the Barbarians, nor among the Greeks, nor in any other known nation, among whom prayers and thanksgivings are not offered up to the Father and Creator of the Universe in the name of Christ Crucified.' Who else but the Almighty could have performed such an inexplicable wonder? St. Augustine, the celebrated Father of the Church, makes a striking observation upon this: 'If the miracles,' he says, 'wrought by the Apostles could be denied, this would be the greatest miracle: that the world believed without miracles.'

5. How do you prove that the Christian Religion was spread through the help of God? About what time did St. Justin live? What does he testify of the propagation of Christianity? What observation does St. Augustine make?

6. But the Christian Church is not only founded on miracles; her duration itself is a continual and perpetual miracle. Kingdoms and empires, in spite of their power, perish in the course of time; the Kingdom of Christ alone outlasts them all, and is constantly increasing. If it decreases in one part of the world, it spreads so much the more in another (§ 45). From the time of its foundation, it has been assailed by innumerable enemies from within and from without; their power is terrible, their hatred implacable. The Church of Christ, on her part, has no army to repulse their assaults, no sword to oppose their rude violence. Had not the arm of God protected her, she would long since have been overcome by the force and fraud of her enemies (§§ 32, 36, 38, 39, 42, 43, 47, 48).

7. The Christian Church appears still more glorious, if we consider the benefits and blessings which she has at all times conferred on mankind. It was she that subdued the brutality of the barbarians, that abolished slavery and human sacrifices, and promoted public and domestic happiness. It was she that founded charitable institutions and innumerable hospitals for the reception of the sick and distressed; it was she that amended the existing laws or made new ones; it was she that taught concord and charity, and diffused learning and true enlightenment (§§ 30, 38, 41, 45, 46). She can truly be called the Tree of Life which God has planted, that all men should peacefully rest under its shade, and refresh themselves with its fruit. Never has a nation abandoned this Tree of Life without plunging itself into indescribable misery. We know very well what has become of the nations in Asia and Africa who were formerly so happy, and

6. How do you prove that the duration or permanent continuance of the Christian Church is a miracle?

7. What fruits did the Christian Faith produce for mankind? What, on the contrary, were the fruits which heresy and infidelity brought forth? What conclusion must we draw from these different fruits?

what fruit the anti-Christian Free-thinkers have produced in Europe (§§ 39, 47, 48). If 'the tree is to be known by its fruits' (Matt. vii. 16), every one must see that the Christian Faith, which diffuses nothing but happiness and blessings, is the most valuable gift of God; that, on the contrary, infidelity, which produces but misery and vexation, can only proceed from the spirit of evil.

8. Now, this Church which Almighty God has founded on miracles, nay, which is herself a continual miracle; this Church which incessantly pours out the greatest benefits over the universe, can be no other but the Roman Catholic Church. History clearly proves that it is she, and no other, that forms that community of the faithful which Christ has established for the salvation of the world, in which the bishops, as the successors of the Apostles, under the supreme authority of the Pope, the Successor of Saint Peter, exercise their Teaching and Pastoral Offices in an uninterrupted succession (§§ 22, 30, 31). It is impossible that any Sect, whatever may be its name, should be the Church founded by Christ; for it is well known that every one of them began to exist long after Christ, and that even then they owed their origin to their defection and separation from the Church of Christ (§§ 36, 42, 43). We see, therefore, that in all these Sects the words of Jesus are sooner or later fulfilled: 'Every plant which my Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up' (Matt. xv. 13). Their existence is not lasting; they spring up, make some noise, and disappear again (§ 36 at the end; § 47 at the beginning). It is not so with the Catholic Church. Thousands of years pass away; neither does she vanish, nor does she grow old; for to her was made the promise of our Lord: 'Upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against her' (Matt. xvi. 18).

8. How do you prove from history that the Church established by God can be no other than the Roman Catholic? What has Christ foretold of all Sects? What promise has He given to the Catholic Church?

LIST OF ROMAN PONTIFFS,  
WITH BIRTHPLACE, DATES OF ACCESSION AND DEATH, AND  
LENGTH OF PONTIFICATE, AS IN THE BASILICA OF  
ST. PAUL, ROME.

NAME.	Date of Accession.	Date of Death.	Duration of Pontificate.		
	A.D.	A.D.	Y.	M.	D.
1. St. Peter, Native of Bethsaida in Galilee, Prince of the Apostles, who received from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ the Supreme Pontificate, to be transmitted to his successors; and, having resided for a time at Antioch, established his See at Rome, where he suffered martyrdom on the 29th of June, 67.	...	...	25	2	7
2. St. Linus, Volterra, Mart.	67	78	11	3	12
3. St. Cletus, Rome, Mart.	78	90	12	1	11
4. St. Clement I., Rome, Mart.	90	100	10	2	10
5. St. Anacletus, Greece, Mart.	100	112	12	10	7
6. St. Evaristus, Syria, Mart.	112	121	9	7	2
7. St. Alexander I., Rome, Mart.	121	132	10	7	3
8. St. Sixtus I., Rome, Mart.	132	142	9	3	21
9. St. Telesphorus, Greece, Mart.	142	154	11	3	21
10. St. Hyginus, Greece, Mart.	154	158	4	3	8
11. St. Pius I., Aquileia, Mart.	158	167	8	3	3
12. St. Anicetus, Syria, Mart.	167	175	8	4	20
13. St. Soter, Naples, Mart.	175	182	7	3	21
14. St. Eleutherius, Epirus, Mart.	182	193	11	4	5
15. St. Victor I., Africa, Mart.	193	203	10	2	10
16. St. Zephyrinus, Rome, Mart.	203	220	17	2	10
17. St. Calixtus I., Rome, Mart.	220	227	5	2	10
18. St. Urban I., Rome, Mart.	227	233	6	7	4
19. St. Pontian, Rome, Mart.	233	238	5	2	7
20. St. Anterus, Greece, Mart.	238	239	1	1	10
21. St. Fabian, Rome, Mart.	240	253	13	1	12
22. St. Cornelius, Rome, Mart.	253	255	1	10	0
23. St. Lucius I., Rome, Mart.	255	257	1	4	12
24. St. Stephen I., Rome, Mart.	257	260	3	3	20
25. St. Sixtus II., Greece, Mart.	260	261	0	11	13
26. St. Dionysius, Turin.	261	272	11	3	14
27. St. Felix I., Rome, Mart.	272	275	2	5	25
28. St. Eutychian, Tuscany, Mart.	275	283	8	10	3
29. St. Caius, Dalmatia, Mart.	283	296	12	4	9
30. St. Marcellinus, Rome, Mart.	296	304	7	11	3
31. St. Marcellus I., Rome, Mart.	304	309	4	1	21
32. St. Eusebius, Calabria.	309	311	2	1	25
33. St. Melchisedes, Africa.	311	314	3	7	7
34. St. Sylvester I., Rome.	314	337	23	10	27
35. St. Marcus, Rome.	337	340	2	8	21
36. St. Julius I., Rome.	340	352	11	2	6
37. St. Liberius, Rome.	352	363	10	7	2
38. St. Felix II., Rome.	363	365	1	3	2
39. St. Damasus, Spain.	365	384	18	2	10

NAME.	Date of Accession.	Date of Death.	Duration of Pontificate.		
	A.D.	A.D.	Y.	M.	D.
40. St. Siricius, Rome.....	384	398	13	1	10
41. St. Anastasius I., Rome.....	399	402	2	10	6
42. St. Innocent I., Albano.....	402	417	15	2	20
43. St. Zozimus, Greece.....	417	418	1	9	9
44. St. Boniface I., Rome.....	418	423	4	9	23
45. St. Celestine I., Rome.....	423	432	9	10	9
46. St. Sixtus III., Rome.....	432	440	8	1	14
47. St. Leo I. (the Great), Tuscany.....	440	461	21	1	13
48. St. Hilary, Sardinia.....	461	468	6	3	10
49. St. Simplicius, Tivoli.....	468	483	15	0	6
50. St. Felix III., Rome.....	483	492	8	11	18
51. St. Gelasius I., Africa.....	492	496	4	8	18
52. St. Anastasius II., Rome.....	496	498	1	11	24
53. St. Symmachus, Rome.....	498	514	15	7	27
54. St. Hormisdas, Frosinone.....	514	523	9	0	11
55. St. John I., Tuscany, Mart.....	523	520	2	9	5
56. St. Felix IV., Benevento.....	520	530	4	2	13
57. Boniface II., Rome.....	530	532	2	0	20
58. John II., Rome.....	532	535	2	4	25
59. St. Agapitus, Rome.....	535	536	0	10	19
60. St. Silverius, Frosinone, Mart.....	536	538	2	0	12
61. Vigilus, Rome.....	538	555	16	0	0
62. Pelagius I., Rome.....	555	560	4	10	18
63. John III., Rome.....	560	573	12	11	26
64. Benedict I., Rome.....	573	578	4	1	28
65. Pelagius II., Rome.....	578	590	11	2	10
66. St. Gregory I. (the Great), Rome.....	590	604	13	6	10
67. Sabinianus, Volterra.....	604	606	1	5	9
68. Boniface III., Rome.....	606	607	0	8	22
69. St. Boniface IV., Marso.....	607	615	6	8	22
70. St. Adeodatus I., Rome.....	615	619	3	0	20
71. Boniface V., Naples.....	619	625	5	10	0
72. Honorius I., Capua.....	625	638	12	11	17
73. Severinus, Rome.....	640	640	0	2	4
74. John IV., Dalmatia.....	640	642	1	9	18
75. Theodorus I., Greece.....	642	649	6	5	19
76. St. Martin I., Todi, Mart.....	649	655	6	2	11
77. St. Eugenius I., Rome.....	655	656	1	7	14
78. St. Vitalian, Segni.....	657	672	14	5	29
79. Adeodatus II., Rome.....	672	676	4	2	5
80. Domnus I., Rome.....	676	678	1	2	10
81. St. Agatho, Greece.....	678	682	3	6	14
82. St. Leo II., Sicily.....	682	683	0	10	18
83. St. Benedict II., Rome.....	683	684	0	10	12
84. John V., Antioch.....	684	685	1	0	11
85. Conon, Thracia.....	685	686	0	11	0
86. St. Sergius I., Siciliana.....	686	687	0	11	0
87. John VI., Greece.....	687	701	13	8	22
88. John VII., Greece.....	701	705	3	2	12
89. Sisinnius, Syria.....	705	707	2	7	17
90. Constantine, Syria.....	707	708	0	0	20
91. St. Gregory II., Rome.....	708	715	7	0	15
92. St. Gregory III., Syria.....	715	731	15	8	23
93. St. Zacharias, Greece.....	731	741	10	8	20
94. Stephen II., Rome.....	741	752	10	3	14
95. Stephen III., Rome.....	752	752	0	0	3
	752	757	5	0	29

NAME.	Date of Accession.	Date of Death.	Duration of Pontificate.		
	A.D.	A.D.	Y.	M.	D.
96. St. Paul I., Rome.....	757	767	10	1	0
97. Stephen IV., Syracuse.....	767	771	3	5	27
98. Adrian I., Rome.....	771	795	23	10	17
99. St. Leo III., Rome.....	795	816	20	5	16
100. Stephen V., Rome.....	816	817	0	7	0
101. St. Paschal I., Rome.....	817	824	7	0	17
102. Eugenius II., Rome.....	824	827	3	6	0
103. Valentine, Rome.....	827	844	0	1	10
104. Gregory IV., Rome.....	844	847	16	0	0
105. Sergius II., Rome.....	847	855	2	11	26
106. St. Leo IV., Rome.....	855	858	8	3	6
107. Benedict III., Rome.....	858	867	2	6	10
108. St. Nicholas I. (the Great), Rome.....	867	872	9	6	20
109. Adrian II., Rome.....	872	882	4	10	10
110. John VIII., Rome.....	882	884	10	0	1
111. Marinus I., Gallicia.....	884	885	1	5	0
112. Adrian III., Rome.....	885	885	1	4	0
113. Stephen VI., Rome.....	885	891	6	0	9
114. Formosus, Ostia.....	891	896	4	6	0
115. Boniface VI.....	896	896	0	0	15
116. Stephen VII., Rome.....	896	898	1	2	0
117. Romanus, Gallese.....	898	898	0	3	21
118. Theodorus II., Rome.....	898	898	0	0	20
119. John IX., Tivoli.....	898	900	2	0	15
120. Benedict IV., Rome.....	900	903	3	2	0
121. Leo V., Ardea.....	903	903	0	1	26
122. Christophorus, Rome.....	903	904	0	6	0
123. Sergius III., Rome.....	904	911	7	3	0
124. Anastasius III., Rome.....	911	913	2	2	0
125. Landus, Sabina.....	913	914	0	6	10
126. John X., Ravenna.....	914	928	14	2	3
127. Leo VI., Rome.....	928	929	0	8	5
128. Stephen VIII., Rome.....	929	931	2	1	12
129. John XI., Rome.....	931	936	4	10	0
130. Leo VII., Rome.....	936	939	3	6	10
131. Stephen IX., Rome.....	939	942	3	4	5
132. Marinus II., Rome.....	942	943	3	6	13
133. Agapitus II., Rome.....	943	946	10	3	0
134. John XII., Rome.....	946	956	7	9	0
135. Benedict V., Rome.....	956	964	1	1	12
136. John XIII., Rome.....	964	965	0	1	5
137. Benedict VI., Rome.....	965	972	6	11	5
138. Domnus II., Rome.....	972	973	1	3	0
139. Benedict VII., Rome.....	973	973	0	3	0
140. John XIV., Pavia.....	973	984	9	5	0
141. Boniface VII., France.....	984	985	0	8	10
142. John XV., Rome.....	985	985	0	7	15
143. John XVI., Rome.....	985	996	10	4	12
144. Gregory V., Germany.....	996	996	0	4	12
145. John XVII., Rome.....	996	999	2	8	0
146. Sylvester II., France.....	999	999	0	10	0
147. John XVIII., Rome.....	1003	1003	0	10	0
148. John XIX., Rome.....	1003	1003	4	1	9
149. Sergius IV., Rome.....	1009	1009	0	4	25
150. Benedict VIII., Rome.....	1012	1012	5	7	28
151. John XX., Rome.....	1012	1024	2	8	13
	1024	1033	11	11	11
			9	8	8

NAME.	Date of Accession.	Date of Death.	Duration of Pontificate.			
			A. D.	Y.	M.	D.
152. Benedict IX., Rome.....	1033	1044	11	0	0	0
153. Gregory VI., Rome (abdicated in 1046)...	1044	....	2	8	0	0
154. Clement II., Saxony.....	1046	1047	0	9	15	0
155. Damasus II., Bavaria.....	1048	1048	0	0	23	0
156. St. Leo IX., Germany.....	1049	1054	5	7	7	0
157. Victor II., Svevia.....	1055	1057	2	3	15	0
158. Stephen X., Germany.....	1057	1058	0	7	27	0
159. Benedict X.....	1058	....	0	9	20	0
160. Nicholas II., France.....	1059	1061	2	6	25	0
161. Alexander II., Milan.....	1061	1073	11	6	21	0
162. St. Gregory VII., Soana.....	1073	1085	12	1	3	0
163. Victor III., Benevento.....	1087	1087	0	4	26	0
164. Urban II., Reims.....	1088	1099	11	4	18	0
165. Paschal II., Tuscany.....	1099	1118	18	5	7	0
166. Gelasius II., Gaeta.....	1118	1119	1	0	4	0
167. Calixtus II., Burgundy.....	1119	1124	5	10	12	0
168. Honorius II., Bologna.....	1124	1130	5	1	25	0
169. Innocent II., Rome.....	1130	1143	13	8	9	0
170. Celestine II., Citta di Castello.....	1143	1144	0	5	13	0
171. Lucius II., Bologna.....	1144	1145	0	11	14	0
172. B. Eugenius III., Montemagno.....	1145	1153	8	4	10	0
173. Anastasius IV., Rome.....	1153	1154	1	4	24	0
174. Adrian IV., England.....	1154	1159	4	8	29	0
175. Alexander III., Siena.....	1159	1181	21	11	22	0
176. Lucius III., Lucca.....	1181	1185	4	2	18	0
177. Urban III., Milan.....	1185	1187	0	10	25	0
178. Gregory VIII., Benevento.....	1187	1187	1	1	27	0
179. Clement III., Rome.....	1187	1191	3	3	8	0
180. Celestine III., Rome.....	1191	1198	6	9	9	0
181. Innocent III., Anagni.....	1198	1216	18	6	9	0
182. Honorius III., Rome.....	1216	1227	10	8	0	0
183. Gregory IX., Anagni.....	1227	1241	14	5	2	0
184. Celestine IV., Milan.....	1241	1241	0	0	17	0
185. Innocent IV., Genoa.....	1243	1254	11	5	14	0
186. Alexander IV., Anagni.....	1254	1261	6	5	13	0
187. Urban IV., Troyes.....	1261	1264	3	1	4	0
188. Clement IV., France.....	1265	1269	3	9	0	0
189. B. Gregory X., Piacenza.....	1271	1276	4	4	10	0
190. Innocent V., Savoy.....	1276	1276	0	5	2	0
191. Adrian V., Genoa.....	1276	1276	0	1	9	0
192. John XXI., Lisbon.....	1276	1277	0	8	5	0
193. Nicholas III., Rome.....	1277	1280	2	8	29	0
194. Martin IV., France.....	1281	1285	4	1	7	0
195. Honorius IV., Rome.....	1285	1287	2	0	1	0
196. Nicholas IV., Ascoli.....	1288	1292	4	1	14	0
197. St. Celestine V., Lavoro (resigned).....	1294	....	0	5	8	0
198. Boniface VIII., Anagni.....	1294	1303	8	9	18	0
199. B. Benedict XI., Treviso.....	1303	1304	0	8	5	0
200. Clement V., Fr. (removed to Avignon).....	1305	1314	8	10	15	0
201. John XXII., France.....	1316	1334	18	3	28	0
202. Benedict XII., France.....	1334	1342	7	4	7	0
203. Clement VI., France.....	1342	1352	10	6	28	0
204. Innocent VI., France.....	1352	1362	9	8	25	0
205. B. Urban V., France.....	1362	1370	8	1	22	0
206. Gregory XI., Fr. (restored See to Rome).....	1370	1378	7	2	28	0
207. Urban VI., Naples.....	1378	1389	11	6	6	0

NAME.	Date of Accession.	Date of Death.	Duration of Pontificate.			
			A. D.	Y.	M.	D.
208. Boniface IX., Naples.....	1389	1404	14	11	1	0
209. Innocent VII., Sulmona.....	1404	1406	2	0	21	0
210. Gregory XII., Venice (resigned —).....	1406	....	2	6	4	0
211. Alexander V., Bologna.....	1409	1410	0	10	8	0
212. John XXIII., Naples (resigned 1415).....	1410	....	5	0	13	0
213. Martin V., Rome.....	1417	1431	13	3	10	0
214. Eugenius IV., Venice.....	1431	1447	15	11	20	0
215. Nicholas V., Sarzana.....	1447	1455	8	0	20	0
216. Calixtus III., Spain.....	1455	1458	3	3	29	0
217. Pius II., Siena.....	1458	1464	5	11	26	0
218. Paul II., Venice.....	1464	1471	6	10	26	0
219. Sixtus IV., Savona.....	1471	1484	13	0	4	0
220. Innocent VIII., Genoa.....	1484	1492	7	10	25	0
221. Alexander VI., Spain.....	1492	1503	11	0	8	0
222. Pius III., Siena.....	1503	1503	0	0	16	0
223. Julius II., Savona.....	1503	1503	0	3	21	0
224. Leo X., Florence.....	1503	1513	8	8	20	0
225. Adrian VI., Utrecht.....	1513	1521	1	8	5	0
226. Clement VII., Florence.....	1521	1534	10	1	5	0
227. Paul III., Rome.....	1534	1549	15	0	28	0
228. Julius III., Tuscany.....	1549	1555	5	1	16	0
229. Marcellus II., Montepulciano.....	1555	1555	0	0	23	0
230. Paul IV., Naples.....	1555	1559	4	2	7	0
231. Pius IV., Milan.....	1559	1565	5	11	15	0
232. St. Pius V., Bosco.....	1565	1572	6	3	24	0
233. Gregory XIII., Bologna.....	1566	1572	12	10	28	0
234. Sixtus V., Ancona.....	1572	1585	5	4	3	0
235. Urban VII., Rome.....	1585	1590	0	0	13	0
236. Gregory XIV., Cremona.....	1590	1591	0	10	10	0
237. Innocent IX., Bologna.....	1591	1591	0	2	0	0
238. Clement VIII., Florence.....	1592	1605	13	1	3	0
239. Leo XI., Florence.....	1605	1605	0	0	27	0
240. Paul V., Rome.....	1605	1621	15	8	12	0
241. Gregory XV., Bologna.....	1621	1623	2	5	0	0
242. Urban VIII., Florence.....	1623	1644	20	11	21	0
243. Innocent X., Rome.....	1644	1655	10	3	23	0
244. Alexander VII., Siena.....	1655	1667	12	1	15	0
245. Clement IX., Pistoia.....	1667	1669	2	5	19	0
246. Clement X., Rome.....	1669	1676	6	2	23	0
247. Innocent XI., Como.....	1676	1689	12	10	22	0
248. Alexander VIII., Venice.....	1689	1691	1	3	27	0
249. Innocent XII., Naples.....	1700	1700	9	2	15	0
250. Clement XI., Urbino.....	1700	1721	20	3	25	0
251. Innocent XIII., Rome.....	1721	1724	2	9	29	0
252. Benedict XIII., Rome.....	1724	1730	5	8	23	0
253. Clement XII., Florence.....	1730	1740	9	6	25	0
254. Benedict XIV., Bologna.....	1740	1758	17	8	16	0
255. Clement XIII., Venice.....	1758	1769	10	6	27	0
256. Clement XIV., S. Angelo in Vado.....	1769	1774	5	4	3	0
257. Pius VI., Cesena.....	1774	1799	24	6	14	0
258. Pius VII., Cesena.....	1800	1823	23	5	6	0
259. Leo XII., Spoleto.....	1823	1829	5	4	13	0
260. Pius VIII., Cingoli.....	1829	1830	1	8	0	0
261. Gregory XVI., Belluno.....	1830	1846	15	3	29	0
262. Pius IX., Simigaglia.....	1846	1878	31	7	20	0
263. Leo XIII., gloriosamente regnante.....	1878	....	.....	.....	.....	0

## EXPLANATION OF THE LIST.

THE foregoing list of the Popes is taken from the series of portraits, painted in medallions, on the nave walls of the Basilica of St. Paul, on the Ostian Way, near Rome. This magnificent church was built over the tomb of the great Apostle, under the reign of Constantine the Great, by Pope St. Sylvester, about the year A.D. 320. The portrait of that Pope, and of Marcus, his successor, and of the thirty-three Popes who had preceded them, were all painted apparently by the same hand. The portraits of the succeeding Popes were generally added, one by one, by different hands, probably soon after death, and by the care of their successors. This, however, seems to have been omitted in some instances, possibly on account of the troublous times; for we find that the series has been continued by medallions of two or three Popes evidently executed by the same artist. The most considerable interruption of such a character was in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, when seven medallions seem to have been painted during the reign of Martin V.

This is the largest and most interesting series of historical portraits in existence. Artists are able to read, as it were, and recognize the work of a painter as easily and as surely as ordinary mortals read and recognize the varying handwriting of individuals. Even in the case of the earlier Popes before St. Sylvester, they see evidences that the artist was in possession of such knowledge as enabled him to give to each face the marked individuality of a portrait. For the subsequent Popes down to the present time there is no difficulty. However imperfect the workmanship, even in the mediæval centuries, and although the fading colors may have been retouched by equally unskilful hands, it is always evident that the painter originally presented the features of a real face—not an ideal or fancy sketch.

The Basilica of St. Paul was destroyed by fire in 1823 and this series of portraits unfortunately perished in the flames. But half a century before all these portraits had been carefully engraved on copperplate and published. From these engravings Pope Pius IX. has caused the portraits to be reproduced in imperishable mosaics, and they again decorate the nave of the splendid Basilica of St. Paul, which has been rebuilt, and which he consecrated a few years ago. From the copperplates other copies have been made in copperplate, steel, lithograph, and photograph, of various sizes, and may be easily obtained. Under each medallion in the Church was an inscription giving the name of the Pontiff, and the length of his pontificate. Ordinarily, in the case of contemporary Popes, this is testimony of the highest character. Where, as in the case of the earlier Popes, the inscription could only give the judgment of the painter as to dates long past, it obviously cannot claim the same high value. It might be, and in some cases has been, held to be uncertain, and in others erroneous. Some Popes, also, have been inserted in this list, doubtless in deference to the claims urged at the time by their adherents, and perhaps for the sake of peace. A more critical and impartial spirit has doubted or denied their right to such honor, and classed them as Antipopes. In these two points we find the explanation of the difference between this list of Popes and those found elsewhere. We give the list as published in the *Gerarchia Cattolica*, Rome, 1875, with a few corrections, which were evidently typographical errors.

## A FULL CATECHISM

OF

## THE CATHOLIC RELIGION.

## INTRODUCTION.

*On the End of Man.*

1. For what end are we in this world?  
We are in this world that we may know God, love Him, and serve Him, and thereby attain Heaven.
2. What is Heaven?  
Heaven is a place of eternal and perfect happiness.
3. Are not, then, the things of this world intended to make us happy?  
No; the things of this world cannot possibly make us happy.
4. Why cannot the things of this world make us happy?  
1. Because all earthly things are vain and perishable; and 2. Because man is made for God and for everlasting happiness in Heaven.  
1. 'I heaped together for myself silver and gold, and the wealth of kings and provinces. And whatsoever my eyes desired, I refused them not, and I withheld not my heart from enjoying every pleasure. But I saw in all things vanity and vexation of mind, and that nothing was lasting under the sun.' Thus spoke Solomon, the happiest of kings (Eccles. ii. 8-11). 'What is your life? It is a vapor which appeareth for a little while, and afterwards shall vanish away' (James iv. 15). 2. 'For Thyself, O God, Thou hast made us; therefore our heart will be restless until it rests in Thee' (St. Augustin.).