

# POPE FRANCIS



## THE FIRST JESUIT POPE

### ■ WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? EXACTLY WHO ARE THE JESUITS?

History shows that the order of the Jesuits was foremost in the re-establishment of papal supremacy during the great Protestant Reformation. It held nothing back in order to destroy Protestantism. Founded by Ignatius Loyola, a Spanish nobleman, let us take a brief look at this order's origin, principles, and purposes.

Recovering from a serious injury inflicted at the Battle of Pamplona in 1521, Loyola studied the lives of Catholic saints. It convinced him to adopt a life of astonishing austerity in the service of God. While in Paris, pursuing a master's degree in Philosophy, he established the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1534. Ignatius drafted the constitution of the order of the Jesuits and submitted it to Pope Paul III, receiving approval in 1540. [Portions of the Jesuit "Extreme Oath of Induction" are printed on the back panel.]



*Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556). Founder of the Society of Jesus. He was canonized in 1622.*

Making use of his military experience, Loyola organized the order into a "Company" - a new battalion in the spiritual army of the Roman Catholic Church. Besides the usual vows of poverty, chastity, and doing good, the professed of the order take a fourth vow of complete obedience to the Pope, which obliges them to engage in any work the Pope appoints.

■ **RISE OF THE JESUITS AFTER THE COUNCIL OF TRENT.** To stem the tide of Protestantism, the Church of Rome convened the Council of Trent (1545 - 1563). Having few scholars to match the theological prowess of her Protestant enemies, the Pope turned to the newly formed Jesuit order. One of its first responsibilities was to fill this need as pontifical theologians.

Since the Protestant Reformers were identifying the Papacy as the prophesied Antichrist of Scripture, it was the primary purpose of the Jesuits to develop a new biblical interpretation to counteract this application. Shortly after the council's last session, two Jesuit theologians stepped forward with commentaries in-

troducing different methods of understanding Antichrist and Bible prophecy. One was Francisco Ribera (1537 - 1591), who placed Antichrist into the far future. The other, Luis De Alcazar (1554 - 1613), located Antichrist centuries back into the past. It was successful! The Christian world slowly began adopting these reinterpretations. Thus today, the Protestant view (historicism) has been replaced by either futurism or preterism. Moreover, the Jesuits also introduced a new English version (Douay-Rheims) of the Latin Vulgate Bible, a translation promoting subtle doctrinal error.

Later under continued Jesuit influence, the monstrous council of the Inquisition was brought back by a papal bull of Pope Gregory XV in 1622. Named, "The Council of the Propagation of the Faith," thousands of Christians lost their lives at the hands of the Jesuits for not giving allegiance to the decrees and doctrines of the Roman Church.

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## ■ FRANCIS: THE PEOPLE'S POPE.

From their beginning, the Jesuits were noted for visiting prisons and ministering to the sick and poor, all the while, professing to have renounced the world, cloaking themselves with a garb of sanctity. But under this facade, it was their aim to secure wealth and power with the intent of crushing Protestantism and exalting Catholic popery. Claiming infallibility, Rome boasts it never changes (Latin, *semper eadem*: "always the same").



Since elected Pope on March 13, 2013, it is of interest that Francis appears in his actions to be following the disciplines of the order. Note the following exemplary media headlines: ► "Pope Francis celebrates Holy Thursday by washing prisoners' feet" - April 2, 2015; ► "Pope in Paraguay after offering hope to prisoners" - July 10, 2015; and ► "Pope urges Church to welcome the poor" - July 12, 2015. In addition, his

May 24, 2015, encyclical on the environment (*Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common Home*) claims that climate change harms the poorest the most.

Speaking of power, the Jesuits were abolished "forever" by a papal bull in 1773 because of their strong meddling in the political affairs of civil governments. When the Papacy received a "deadly wound" (Revelation 13:3) in 1798, the order was restored in 1814 to reignite the Catholic faith. On December 17, 2014, it was announced that the United States and Cuba, after some fifty years of acrimony, had renewed their diplomatic relations. The final deal was deliberated in secret at the Vatican, the only other *government* that participated in the negotiations between the two countries. Francis helped drive the deal, providing solutions when sticky issues arose.

Pope Francis is connecting with everybody, becoming a hero. This has increased the Pontiff's popularity by leaps and bounds. His outgoing personality is making him into a very charismatic leader. Pope Francis is building a foundation for the Catholic Church to further regain her worldly power and control. ❖

► For additional reading concerning Catholicism in general, including the Jesuits, write to the address or visit the website listed inside and order the book, Facts of Faith.

## ■ THE JESUIT OATH ■

" I ... declare and swear that his holiness, the Pope, ... hath power to depose heretical kings, princes, states, commonwealths and governments, all being illegal without his sacred confirmation, and that they may be safely destroyed.

" I do further declare, that I will help and assist and advise all or any of his Holiness' agents in any place wherever I shall be, and do my utmost to extirpate the heretical Protestant or Liberal doctrines and to destroy all their pretended powers, legal or otherwise. ...

" I do further promise and declare, that I will have no opinion or will of my own, or any mental reservation whatever, even as a corpse or cadaver (*perinde ac cadaver*) but unhesitatingly obey each and every command that I may receive from my superiors in the Militia of the Pope and Jesus Christ.

" That I will go to any part of the world, whatsoever, without murmuring and will be submissive in all things whatsoever communicated to me ... I do further promise and declare, that I will, when opportunity presents, make and wage relentless war, secretly or openly, against all heretics, Protestants and Liberals, as I am directed to do to extirpate and exterminate them from the face of the whole earth, and that I will spare neither sex, age nor condition, and that I will hang, waste, boil, flay, strangle and bury alive these infamous heretics; rip up the stomachs and wombs of their women and crush their infants' heads against the wall, in order to annihilate forever their execrable race. ... " - As recorded in the Congressional Record of the United States of America (House Bill 1523, Contested election case of Eugene C. Bonniwell, against Thos. S. Butler, February 15, 1913, pages 3215-16).