

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA



CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- *“The whole continent of North America appears to be destined by Divine Providence to be peopled by one nation, speaking one language, professing one general system of religious and political principles, and accustomed to one general tenor of social usages and customs. For the common happiness of them all, for their peace and prosperity, I believe it is indispensable that they should be associated in one federal Union.”*

John Quincy Adams

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- Manifest Destiny Doctrine was based on the idea that America had a divine providence. It had a future that was destined by God to expand its borders, with no limit to area or country.
- "It was white man's burden to conquer and Christianize the land"
- Part of the Manifest Destiny was that America was to be Anglo-Saxon Protestant

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- Manifest Destiny Doctrine was based on the idea that America had a divine providence. It had a future that was destined by God to expand its borders, with no limit to area or country.
- "It was white man's burden to conquer and Christianize the land"
- Part of the Manifest Destiny was that America was to be Anglo-Saxon Protestant

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- 1830 A group of Protestant ministers launch the *Protestant*, an anti-Catholic weekly which spearheads the nativist movement
- 1834 Establishment of the Diocese of Vincennes
- 1834 The Ursuline Convent at Charlestown, Massachusetts, is burned by a nativist mob
- 1836 Publication of the *Awful Disclosures of the Hotel Dieu Nunnery of Montreal* by Maria Monk;
- President Jackson nominates Catholic Roger Brooke Taney as Chief Justice of the United States

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- 1840 Pierre-Jean De Smet, S.J., makes his first trip to the far West in behalf of the Indian missions;
- Opening of New York controversy over public funds for private religious schools
- 1844 Philadelphia rioters provoked by nativists burn two Catholic churches and kill thirteen persons;
- Orestes A. Brownson received into the Catholic Church
- Beginning of the potato famine in Ireland eliminating the sole substance of millions of peasants and touching off a mass migration
- They left in droves for the United States seeking a new life in a new land - they were less than welcome

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- 1845 Isaac T. Hecker becomes a Catholic;
- 1848 Diplomatic relations established between the United States and Papal States broken off in 1868.
- First permanent American Trappist foundation made in Kentucky, Gethsemane at Bardstown
- 1850 Holy See creates three new ecclesiastical provinces with archbishops in Cincinnati, New Orleans, and New York
- Archbishop John Hughes – Dagger John
- 1852 The First Plenary Council of Baltimore
- 1853 Know-Nothing demonstrations against Archbishop Gaetano Bedini, papal nuncio to Brazil – Sub-secretum visitor re trusteeism.

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- 1855 New York legislature passes the Putnam Bill, a Know-Nothing measure against right of Catholic bishops to hold church properties
- 1858 Founding of the Paulist Fathers, the first native religious community for men
- 1859 The North American College opens in Rome
- 1861 Archbishop Hughes commissioned by Lincoln and Seward to go to France in effort to maintain its neutrality in the Civil War
- 1866 The Second Plenary Council of Baltimore
- 1869 Forty-five American bishops in attendance at the First Vatican Council
- 1875 John McCloskey, Archbishop of New York, becomes first American cardinal

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- Congregation of the Faith issues concerning danger to religious faith of children instruction of Congregation de Propaganda Fide concerning danger to religious faith of children in public schools and the need for parochial
- 1886 James Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, named the second American cardinal
- 1884 The Third Plenary Council of Baltimore decrees that every parish provide Catholic education setting motion the most vigorous Catholic school building campaign in history.
- 1890 Archbishop Ireland delivers address on public and private schools before the National Education Association in St. Paul
- Pope Leo XIII erects the Diocese of Dallas

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- 1891 Millionheiress Katharine Drexel founds the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for work among the Negroes and Indians She will be canonized 109 years later.
- 1893 The Apostolic Delegation established in Washington. No formal diplomatic relations until 1984 but several presidents designated personal envoys.
- College of Notre Dame of Maryland, first Catholic college for women in United States, opens
- 1899 Pope Leo XIII's apostolic letter, *Testem benevolentiae*, concerning the errors of Americanism

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- Background of Americanism
 - Different ideas as to how the Catholic Church should relate to the new and completely different American culture
 - Some American prelates, among them Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Ireland, Archbishop Keane and Archbishop Spalding.
 - Father Isaac Hecker triggered the movement that would be labeled Americanism by its opponents, who were led by Archbishop Corrigan of New York and a number of other prelates, particularly of German descent
 - Hecker's efforts were to justify Catholicism to a non-Catholic world by bringing the Catholic Faith into harmony with with American thought and life.
 - Gibbons praised the separation of Church and state, Spalding endorsed the public school system and Ireland admitted the Church had been an alien element.

CATHOLICISM IN AMERICA

- Opponents saw these tendencies as “watering down” the Faith
- There was also an undercurrent of resentment of the control of the hierarchy by Irish prelates, despite the role of Archbishop Corrigan
- The action of Leo XIII was to send a personal letter to Cardinal Gibbons that listed a number of concerns about possible errors
- It neither condemned nor condoned but observed that if they restricted the church’s right to determine questions of a doctrinal and moral nature then they should be condemned
- But if they do not do so and simply reflect the laws and customs of the country, they were permitted.