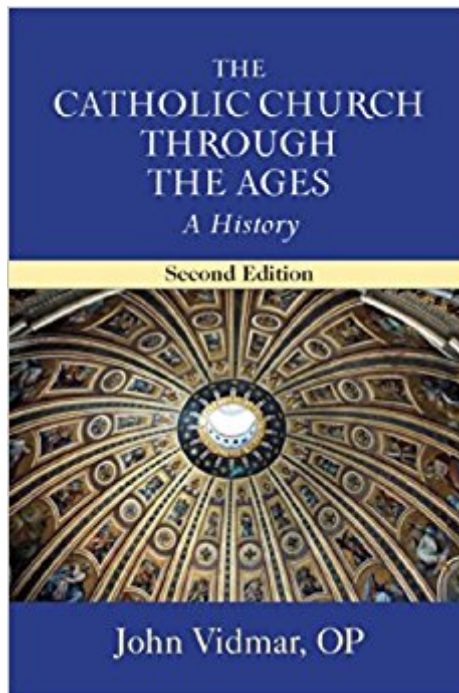




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Catholic Church Through The Ages, The: A History; Second Edition



Synopsis

The Catholic Church through the Ages, now in its second edition, is a one-volume survey of the history of the Catholic Church from its beginning until (and including) the pontificate of Pope Francis. The book explains the Church's progress by using Christopher Dawson's division of the Church's history into six distinct "ages," or 350-400 year periods of time, each cycle beginning with great enthusiasm and advancement and ending in decline and loss. Writing with the experience of thirty years of teaching, the author has fashioned an ideal text that combines substance with readability. Undergraduates, graduates, and interested lay people have given the author an idea of what topics should be emphasized. As a result, he has emphasized such areas as monasticism, the Crusades, medieval theology, the Inquisition, Reformation, French Revolution, the nineteenth century, and the Church in the United States. And he has added material on the Oxford Movement, John Henry Newman's contributions to the Oxford Movement and to the Catholic intellectual tradition, and the Catholic literary revival that took place in several countries in the early twentieth century, as well as on the last three popes. As a supplement to each chapter, the author has included an updated list of recommended readings and bibliography, as well as the audio-visual materials.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Vidmar's introduction begins: "After several years of teaching adults, I have seen the need for a one-volume history of the Catholic Church that combines substance with readability. This is not an

easy balance to achieve, and the majority of historians seem to err on one side or the other. One tendency is to include so much detail that the reader gives up early on. The opposite tendency is to have a breezy approach, loosely combining broad topics." What impresses me most is that he has achieved this. One other point worth mentioning is this: those brothers and sisters who are separated from the Catholic Church, considering many reasons, may find here a rather honest admission to the failings of its members. These harmful behaviors by some are presented together with the challenges of that period in history and the results achieved (and missed) by decisions made. Curious about Constantine's role or the separation between East and West? Read this book. Interested in the start of Islam and its rapid expansion? Here is a great source. Want to know about the factors leading up to the separation of the Christian family following Luther and others? This is an easy work to begin with.

Balanced, easy to read with terrific additional sources at the end of the sections that recommend additional reading and videos, which Father Vidmar rates in terms of ease of use. Perfect for a high school history class.

My wife got this as part of a catechist course. I am a semi-pro historian, and I like the ease of delivery of the material and the scope of the analyses.

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