

The Counter-Reformation

***The success of the Protestant Reformation forced the Church to make some changes and attempt to win back some of its former followers.**

- I. Ignatius of Loyola and the Jesuits
 - A. Who was Loyola?
 1. he was a soldier who was wounded in the Habsburg-Valois Wars in 1521
 2. during a lengthy and painful convalescence, he began a spiritual pilgrimage
 3. he was impressed with the heroic self-sacrifice of the church's saints and their methods of overcoming mental anguish and pain
 4. he underwent a profound religious conversion and decided that he, too, would serve the church as a soldier of Christ
 - B. *Spiritual Exercises*
 1. embodied Loyola's program of religious and moral self-discipline
 2. contained mental and emotional exercises designed to teach one absolute spiritual self-mastery over one's feelings
 3. through discipline, one could shape his or her own behavior and create a new religious self (a more spiritual self)
 4. the exercises were intended to teach good Catholics to deny themselves and submit without question to higher church authority and spiritual direction
 - C. The Jesuits
 1. organized by Loyola in the 1530's
 2. officially recognized by the church in 1540
 3. grew to more than 15,000 members with missionaries scattered throughout the world
 4. helped counter the Reformation and win many Protestants back to the Catholic fold
- II. The Council of Trent (1545-1563)

***The Council of Trent addressed the issues of church doctrine and internal church discipline...some of the major complaints of the Protestants**

- A. What was it?
 1. a general council of the church (called by Pope Paul at the request of Charles V) to reassert church doctrine
 2. met three times over eighteen years
 3. consisted of clergy, university theologians, and lay people
 4. only high levels of clergy were permitted to vote
- B. Reforms: The most important reforms concerned internal church discipline and improving the church's image (less secularism and materialism). **Not one doctrinal concession was made to the Protestants.**
 1. steps were taken to curtail the selling of church offices and other religious goods

2. bishops were forced to reside in their appointed seats of authority
 - a. in addition, bishops were to be highly visible by preaching regularly
 - b. bishops were required to conduct visitations to their appointed regions
 3. improved the image of the parish priest
 - a. must be neatly dressed
 - b. better educated
 - c. strictly celibate
 - d. active among his parishioners
- C. Reaffirmed Catholic Doctrine
1. the seven sacraments
 2. role of good works in attaining salvation
 3. the authority of tradition
 4. transubstantiation
 5. the withholding of the Eucharistic Cup from the laity
 6. clerical celibacy
 7. the reality of purgatory
 8. the veneration of the saints, relics, and sacred images
 9. the granting of letters of indulgence
- D. Ultimately, parish life revived under the guidance of a devout and better-trained clergy. Whereas one-half of Europe could be counted in the Protestant camp in the mid-16th century, only one-fifth would be there by the mid-17th century.

***Roman Catholic priests accompanied the earliest explorers and the conquerors of the Native Americans. By the 1500's, the Inquisition had made its way to the New World. Be familiar with the "Black Legend" and Bartolome de Las Casas.**