

Catholics History in the United States of America

- 1600 - Present time
- Karen Wilkerson October 23, 2011

What American Ideals shaped
the founding of our country?

Six Stages

- The Priestless Church
- The Church in the Democratic Republic
- The Immigrant Church
- The Church of Catholic Action
- The Church of Vatican 2
- The Church of the Twenty-first Century

Key Questions

- 1. Size and Structure of the church
 - How many Catholics and where did they live?
 - How was the balance of race, gender, and social class?
 - How many priests and nuns- and how did this affect the church?
 - What were social constructs of the church?

- 2. What did it mean to “be Catholic” in terms of a religious/devotional life?
- 3. What was the relationship of the church to the Pope?

- What was the public perception of Catholics?
- What was the Catholic participation in politics?

The Priestless Church

- 1600-1750
- Charles Carroll- Only Catholic signer of Declaration of Independence

The Church in the Democratic Republic 1750-1850

- Lyman Beecher
- Evangelical preacher
- Anti-Catholic

The Immigrant Church 1859-early 1900's

- Irish Immigrants

Catholic Workers Movement

- Dorothy Day

Peter Maurin

Hollywood helps shape perception

- Karl Malden, (Father Peter Barry)
- On the Waterfront

- Bing Crosby

Spencer Tracy

Church shapes perception

Government shapes perception

- Al Smith First Catholic
- PresidentialCandidate.
- Humiliating loss in 1928

- Senator Joseph McCarthy

John F. Kennedy

“I am not the Catholic
candidate for president. I am
The Democratic Party’s
Candidate for president, who
Also happens to be Catholic.
I do not speak for the church
On public matters, and the
Church does not speak for
me.”

The Church of Vatican 2

Pope John XXIII

Called into being
Vatican 2

The Church in the 21st Century

- Some of the same trends:
- Priestless church
- Laity filling the gaps
- Immigrants continuing to influence
- Social Action concerns
- Faith becoming personal and individual
- Religion still is impacting Presidential elections.