

Thus Saith Rome!

There is a general idea that the doctrines and dogmas of Rome have been in place unchanged from the beginning. Actually, Roman Catholicism has been evolving since the 4th century. The following list of doctrines and dates originally compiled by Glenn Yuille may be helpful:

1. Prayers for the dead began about	A.D. 300
2. Making the sign of the cross	300
3. Veneration of angels and dead saints and use of images	320
4. The Mass as a daily celebration	375
5. Beginning of the Exaltation of Mary, the term "Mother of God" first applied to her by the Council of Ephesus	431
6. Priests began to dress differently from laymen	500
7. Extreme Unction	526
8. The Doctrine of Purgatory established by Gregory I	593
9. Latin language used in prayer and worship imposed by Gregory I	600
10. Prayers directed to Mary, dead saints, and angels, about	600
11. Title of Pope or Universal Bishop given to Boniface III by Emperor Phocas	607
12. Kissing Pope's foot began with Pope Constantine	709
13. Temporal power of the Popes, conferred by Pepin, King of the Franks	750
14. Worship of the cross, images and relics, authorized in	786
15. Holy water, mixed with a pinch of salt and blessed by a priest	850
16. Worship of St. Joseph	890
17. College of Cardinals established	927
18. Baptism of bells instituted by Pope John XIII	965
19. Canonization of dead saints, first by Pope John XV	995
20. Fasting on Fridays and during Lent	998
21. The Mass, developed gradually as a sacrifice, attendance made obligatory	11 th century
22. Celibacy of the priesthood, decreed by Pope Gregory VII (Hildebrand)	1079
23. The Rosary, mechanical praying with beads, invented by Peter the Hermit	1090
24. The Inquisition, instituted by the Council of Verona	1184
25. Sale of Indulgences	1190
26. Transubstantiation proclaimed by Pope Innocent III	1215
27. Auricular Confession of sins to a priest instead of to God, instituted by Pope Innocent III in Lateran Council	1215
28. Adoration of the wafer (Host adored) by Pope Honorius III	1220
29. Bible forbidden to laymen, placed on the <i>Index of Forbidden Books</i> by the Council of Valencia	1229
30. The Scapular invented by Simon Stock, an English monk	1251
31. Cup forbidden to the people at communion by Council of Constance	1414
32. Purgatory proclaimed a dogma by the Council of Florence	1439
33. The Doctrine of Seven Sacraments affirmed	1439
34. The Ave Maria (part of the last half was completed 50 years later and approved by Pope Sixtus V at the end of the 16 th century)	1502
35. Jesuit order founded by Loyola	1534
36. Tradition declared of equal authority with the Bible by the Council of Trent	1545
37. Apocryphal books added to the Bible by the Council of Trent	1546
38. Creed of Pope Pius IV imposed as official creed	1560
39. Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, proclaimed by Pope Pius IX	1854
40. Syllabus of Errors, proclaimed by Pius IX and ratified by the Vatican Council; condemned freedom of religion, conscience, speech, press and scientific discoveries which are disapproved by the Roman Church; asserted the Pope's temporal authority over all civil rulers	1864
41. Infallibility of the Pope in matter of faith and morals, proclaimed by the Vatican Council	1870
42. Public schools condemned by Pope Pius XI	1930
43. Assumption of the Virgin Mary (bodily ascension into heaven shortly after her death), proclaimed by Pope Pius XII	1950
44. Mary proclaimed Mother of the Church by Pope Paul VI	1965