

Chapter 1 : The Catholic Church in the United States of America

to the american catholics "home page" On The Web's Most Comprehensive Christian Website SERIOUS NOTE: This "American Catholics Home Page" is part of a larger "All-Christian" website, that includes Independent Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Armenians, Eastern Orthodox, Non-Catholic Christians, and Jewish Citizens.

But which religious figures have had the most influence? Such a list could never be definitive, of course, but this one is likely to be particularly flawed. Any appearance of bias is unintentional and based on the limits of my knowledge. My list is dominated by Protestants both because they have had a significant impact and because that tradition is the one I know best. Suggestions for who should have been included are welcome. The 50 most influential religious figures in American history are: Ann Lee – founder of the Shakers Update: Lee was actually born in Manchester, England. Anne Hutchinson – leader of Puritan women 3. Avery Dulles – Jesuit priest and theologian 4. Benjamin Warfield – defender of Biblical inerrancy 5. Bob Smith – co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous 6. Billy Graham – evangelist and chaplain to late-twentieth century presidents 7. Billy Sunday – one of the most influential evangelists of the early twentieth century 8. Blandina Segale – Catholic nun and charitable activist 9. Brigham Young – Mormon leader CI Scofield – creator of the best-selling annotated Bible that popularized dispensationalism Carrie Nation – leader of the temperance movement Charles Finney – revivalist preacher during the Second Great Awakening Charles Fox Parham – preacher who was instrumental in the formation of Pentecostalism Charles Hodge – chief defender of historical Calvinism in America during the nineteenth century Dorothy Day – social activist and co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement Dwight L Moody – nineteenth century evangelist Elijah Muhammad – leader in the Nation of Islam Francis Schaeffer – Christian apologist and intellectual leader of evangelical pro-life and political movements Fulton J Sheen – Catholic Archbishop and pioneer of radio and television ministry H Richard Niebuhr – Christian theological-ethicist and primary source of postliberal theology James Gibbons – Catholic Archbishop James Hal Cone – advocate of Black liberation theology John Courtney Murray – Jesuit priest and theologian John Howard Yoder – promoter of radical Christian pacifism Jonathan Edwards – evangelical theologian and philosopher Joseph Smith – founder of Mormonism L Ron Hubbard – founder of Scientology Martin Luther King, Jr – pastor and civil rights activist Mary Baker Eddy – founder of Christian Science Reinhold Niebuhr – theologian and public intellectual Richard John Neuhaus – founder of First Things, the most important journal of religion and public life in America Roger Williams – first American proponent of religious freedom and the separation of church and state Wallace Fard Muhammad – minister and founder of the Nation of Islam Walter Rauschenbusch – key figure in the Social Gospel movement William Miller – founding leader of the Adventism movement William J Seymour – African-American minister and an initiator of the Pentecostal religious movement William Cameron Townsend – Wycliffe Bible Translators If you have any suggestions, please leave them in the comments section below.

Chapter 2 : The 50 Most Influential Religious Figures in American History | Joe Carter | First Things

To help do that, OSV Newsweekly is highlighting 12 Great American Catholics throughout Each month, OSV Contributing Editor Russell Shaw will profile a man or a woman who has lived a model life of evangelizing spirit and profound faith.

FOX This chapter explores the early days of the English colonies, when the rights of Catholics were not respected, to the end of the nineteenth century. Cecil Calvert - The English colonies were founded at the same time the Church was persecuted in England. Catholics were not permitted in these colonies. Catholics were excluded from the Dutch colony in New York and the Swedish settlement of Delaware also. By , laws against Catholics were again put into place. Catholics of New York had to travel to Philadelphia as late as the Revolutionary War to participate in Mass and receive the sacraments. Was religious freedom permitted in Maryland? A Catholic colony was settled in Maryland by Cecil Calvert in A church and school were built as Catholic settlers arrived, accompanied by Jesuit priests. They permitted religious freedom to others and, as a result, Protestants obtained control of the colony. The English Church was then established and Catholics were denied their right to vote. The religious freedom of Catholics in Maryland was then restricted until after the Revolutionary War. Were Catholics given freedom in Pennsylvania? In the Church was given greater security when a Jesuit, Fr. Joseph Greaton, settled in Philadelphia and had St. When Catholic emigrants came from Germany, they too built churches. Most of them lived in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Summarize the development of Catholicism in other parts of the New World. The Capuchins built a chapel in New Orleans in , just three years after the city was founded. They opened a school for boys. The French king gave the Ursuline sisters permission to settle in New Orleans and they opened the first convent in the United States. They built a hospital, an orphanage, and a school for girls. The priest blessed the first church in St. Attempts to colonize Florida failed at first because of the hostility of the Indians. Early missionaries did not succeed, even though as early as Fr. Juan Juarez, a Spanish Franciscan, was appointed bishop of Florida. In a group of missionaries landed near Tampa Bay and within a few days all were savagely killed by the Indians. Twelve Franciscans and four Jesuits went with him to convert the Indians. Sailing along the Florida coast on August 28, , Admiral Menendez saw an ideal peninsula and ordered the boats to drop anchor. On September 8 he proclaimed the founding of St. Augustine to convert the Indians, with many priests losing their lives as the new, advancing civilization was resisted by the Indians. Missionaries were determined to bring Christianity to Florida and so the priests who lost their lives were always replaced, and gradually St. Augustine developed and the new colony grew. The countryside became peaceful as missions and monasteries were founded throughout Florida and most of the Indians north of the Gulf of Mexico and east of the Mississippi River converted to the Catholic Church. Missionaries and the faithful were put to death with extreme cruelty. The British, who had been colonizing in the north, also began to destroy Spanish gains. Governor Moore of South Carolina in directed a raid of the Apalachee Mission, valuable for food supplies. Franciscan missionaries were put to death; 1, Indians were taken into slavery by the English governor and Catholic Indians were killed. The Catholic faith in Florida was then even more suppressed. In Florida was purchased as part of the United States. It consisted of soldiers, 10 missionaries, 83 supply wagons and carts, and 7, head of stock. Onate went as far as Wichita, Kansas, and California. Francis, known today as Sante Fe Holy Faith. Santa Fe was founded in and became the headquarters for future missions in New Mexico. By there were forty-three missions and 34, Christian Indians. A Jesuit priest, Fr. It is the finest example of Spanish Renaissance architecture in the United States. Kino traveled thousands of miles on horse, ever anxious to convert souls. Some of this trails became roads, and he kept journals of his extensive travels. Kino won the faith of the Pima Indians for Jesus Christ, he was always sad that he did not succeed in converting the Apache Indians. Kino died on March 15, , in poverty, as he had lived. He is venerated as a great American pioneer. The cause for canonization of Fr. Antonio Margil, who developed missions in Texas, has been introduced. One of the missions he founded near San Antonio San Antonio de Bexar Mission is still used as a parish church and has been declared a National Historic Site by both the state and nation. Margil is compared to Kino and Serra as among the greatest of

Spanish missionaries. Louis in Victoria County. They built hospitals, schools, and guard posts as protection from Apache and Comanche Indians. The Spanish crown withdrew support and in the mission of San Jos de Aguayo was suppressed by the Mexican government. The Franciscans had to leave when the new Mexican government took over the missions in , and with the passing of years the mission was neglected. San Jos, which had earned the name Queen of the Missions, began to be restored to its former beauty in when the archdiocese of San Antonio began a restoration program. In arrangements began whereby it was named a National Historic Site. Junipero Serra - Fr. Serra arrived in the harbor of Veracruz, Mexico, on December 6, , with a group of Franciscan missionaries assigned to evangelize the Indians of northern Mexico. The Franciscans were welcomed in the New World missions. Junipero was known for his great oratory, and his keen philosophical mind gave him a reputation among scholars. Nonetheless, he requested an assignment as a missionary. Learning of California and the needs of its Indians moved him. He then received permission to begin mission work there. His motto was "Always forward, never back. Serra walked whenever possible, in spite of poor health. He carried on a most heroic conquest of America for Christ from until his death in , with no other weapon than a crucifix and the love of God. Serra founded nine important missions in California. His successors founded twelve more. The cities of California grew around these missions. Junipero Serra was always on the move, back and forth between his missions, urging all to greater charity and zeal and encouraging new converts. Not satisfied with simple conversion to the Catholic faith, this great Franciscan priest and missionary taught the Indians a better life by teaching them how to sow and harvest. He led in the development of farmlands and wine presses and helped build, with his own hands, forges, mills, and slaughter houses. Serra once walked 2, miles to Mexico City to get retribution from the viceroy when a commandant of the Spanish military practiced cruelty to the Indians. His death at Carmel Mission, on August 28, , marked the end of Spanish extension in the United States in the pioneer missionary era. Did religion continue strong in the hearts of people after the early pioneer days? To some extent it did, but once the hardships of the pioneer days were over and the descendants grew wealthy from trade and agriculture, the old religious spirit weakened among Protestants. The spirit of the Enlightenment overtook them and Rationalism dominated in too many cases, as many depended more on themselves than on God. Thomas Paine, a leader of the revolutionary spirit, resembled in some respects the infidelity of Voltaire. Thoms Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, was a deist who sympathized with the Freethinkers of France. Catholics were blessed with heroic and saintly missionaries. Their faith continued to spread. There were three Catholics among those who signed the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation: The Carroll family of Maryland played a great role in the foundation of our American nation. One of the great Carroll family became a priest, namely John, who was born in Maryland on January 8, On July 1, , Fr. John Carroll was appointed superior of the Catholic clergy in America. In Monsignor Carroll was appointed bishop, and was consecrated bishop of the United States in , with his see at Baltimore. When Bishop Carroll returned from England where he was consecrated , he took a survey of his vast church. The first national census showed that in there were approximately 30, Catholics in a population of 3, , There were fewer than thirty priests for the widely scattered Catholic population. More than half the Catholics, about 16,, lived in Maryland; 7, lived in Pennsylvania; 3, around Detroit and Vincennes, and 2, in Illinois. How did the first bishop of the United States prosper in ruling the Church? He called the first Synod of Baltimore, which set up rules and regulations that had governed the Church until the present day.

Chapter 3 : Great American Catholic Eulogies | by Carol DeChant

Note: Citations are based on reference standards. However, formatting rules can vary widely between applications and fields of interest or study. The specific requirements or preferences of your reviewing publisher, classroom teacher, institution or organization should be applied.

Admittedly, the Constitution makes the United States secular by law, but for most of our history, we have been Protestant by choice. All that has changed in recent years. Six of the nine justices on the Supreme Court are Catholics. Rick Santorum is Catholic, too. Protestants were burning down Catholic convents to protest efforts by the Vatican to infiltrate American society and take it over from within. Women seeking abortions do so under a regime written and enforced by the courts. In a speech at Duquesne University School of Law, Scalia denied that his Catholicism affected his legal decisions. Before he gave the commencement address at Catholic University last spring, more than 80 professors at that university wrote an open letter to Boehner saying that the budget he pushed through the House contradicted Catholic social teachings by neglecting the poor. And though Biden has ruffled the feathers of church authorities on the abortion question, he is an observant Catholic who attends church regularly and met with Pope John Paul II four times. Rick Santorum, former U. This weekend, Santorum said that John F. Archbishop Timothy Dolan It says something about Catholic authority today that it is hard to think of a member of the Catholic hierarchy who stands among the most influential U. A theological conservative, Dolan was elected president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in , and he was elevated to cardinal in Rome last month. In , Dolan took on Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi for their views on abortion, and in , he criticized the University of Notre Dame for inviting President Obama to speak at its commencement. Colbert makes his political jabs with a smile, but they sting nonetheless. In fact, Colbert the character loves his Catholicism so much that he gave it up last year for Lent. Colbert the real person regularly books Catholics on his show and has appointed Father James Martin, S. With Martin and other theists and atheists, Colbert regularly discusses matters of faith. In fact, his character often gives guests discussing such questions wider berth than his more political guests. Blogger Andrew Sullivan In another era, this final slot might have gone to Garry Wills, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and public intellectual whose writing regularly addresses the intersection of faith and politics in the United States. The thumbnail bio is that Sullivan is gay, Catholic and conservative, but his blog is far more nuanced and coherent than readers might imagine from that trifecta.

Chapter 4 : American Catholics: From Mother Mary to Catholic Schools & Their Bible!

Since many American Hispanics are Catholic, the continuing growth of this community as a share of the U.S. population is gradually shifting the geographic center of U.S. Catholicism from the Northeast and Midwest to the South and the West. Indeed, three-quarters of Hispanic Catholics reside in the South or West, while six-in-ten non-Hispanic.

By David Masci and Gregory A. Smith Parishioners worship during Mass at St. In spite of its size and influence, the church in recent decades has faced a number of significant challenges, from a decline in membership to a shortage of priests to continuing revelations that some Catholic clergy sexually abused minors and in many cases that their superiors covered up these actions. Here are seven facts about American Catholics and their church: This means that there are 6. No other religious group analyzed in the Religious Landscape Study has experienced anything close to this ratio of losses to gains via religious switching. Roughly six-in-ten Catholic adults are white, one-third are Latino, and smaller shares identify as black, Asian American, or with other racial and ethnic groups. The data also show that the share of U. Catholics who are Latino has been growing, and suggest that this share is likely to continue to grow. Indeed, among Catholic Millennials, there are about as many Hispanics as whites. For information on the demographic characteristics of U. Catholics live in the Midwest. Since many American Hispanics are Catholic, the continuing growth of this community as a share of the U. Catholicism from the Northeast and Midwest to the South and the West. Overall, the share of U. Catholics say they want to see the church make significant changes. For example, six-in-ten say they think the church should allow priests to marry and allow women to become priests. And nearly half of U. Catholics say the church should recognize the marriages of gay and lesbian couples. Support for these kinds of changes is lower “ though still substantial “ among Catholics who attend Mass regularly than it is among those who attend Mass less often. In their partisanship, U. Catholics are deeply divided along racial and ethnic lines. Catholics have admired Pope Francis throughout his tenure, but there are growing signs of discontent. But in a Pew Research Center poll conducted in September “ shortly after recent reports about sex scandals in the U. This is an update of a post originally published Sept.

Chapter 5 : Saints “ Franciscan Media

Great American Catholic Eulogies The eulogies in my book span the American experience: from colonial times to our era. Catholic-American ethnic cultures of the honored deceased include: African, Cajun, Italian, Swiss, German, Polish, Lebanese, Austrian, Mexican, Cuban, Slovak/Russian, English, French, Scottish and Native American (Ojibway).

Chapter 6 : “The Great American Read,”™ May 22, PBS “ Catholic Philly

The neglect of honoring women's achievements in the history of American Catholicism is not only because men wrote our history, but also because of the humility typical of so many of our female path breakers.

Chapter 7 : Great American Catholics by Mary Ann Clark | LibraryThing

The Great American Eclipse will be the first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse in the United States in almost the same length of time; it last occurred ninety-nine years ago, in The eclipse will cast a shadow across the totality of the United States, from Oregon to South Carolina.

Chapter 8 : Catholic Women | Great American Catholic Eulogies

Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini () was the first American citizen to be canonized (in). Born in Italy, she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in , settled in the United States in , and became an American citizen at Seattle in

Chapter 9 : List of American saints and beatified people - Wikipedia

The 50 most influential religious figures in American history are: Catholic nun and charitable activist. revivalist preacher during the Second Great Awakening.