

Inventions by the Catholic Church and the dates of their adoption over a period of 1650 years

Because often times terms are used that may be unclear, explanations have been provided in the footnotes.

1. Prayers for the dead	300 A.D.
2. Making the sign of the cross	300
3. Wax candles , about	320
4. Veneration of angels and dead saints, and use of images	375
5. The Mass , as a daily celebration	394
6. Beginning of the exaltation of Mary , the term "Mother of God" first applied to her by the Council of Ephesus	431
7. Priests began to dress differently from laymen	500
8. Extreme Unction ¹	526
9. The doctrine of Purgatory , established by Gregory I	593
10. Latin Language , used in prayer and worship, imposed by Gregory I	600
11. Prayers directed to Mary, dead saints and angels , about	600
12. Title of pope , or universal bishop, given to Boniface III, by emperor Phocas	607
13. Kissing of the pope's foot , began with pope Constantine	709
14. Temporal² power of the popes , conferred by Pipin, king of the Franks	750
15. Worship of the cross, images, and relics , authorized	786
16. Holy water mixed with a pinch of salt and blessed by a priest	850
17. Worship of St. Joseph	890
18. College of cardinals established	927
19. Baptism of bells , instituted by pope John XIII	965
20. Canonization³ of dead saints , first by pope John XV	995
21. Fasting on Fridays and during lent	998
22. The Mass , developed gradually as a sacrifice, attendance made obligatory in the 11 th century	
23. Celibacy of the priesthood , decreed by pope Gregory VII	1079
24. The Rosary , mechanical praying with beads, invented by Peter the Hermit	1090
25. The Inquisition⁴ , instituted by the Council of Verona	1184
26. Sale of Indulgences⁵ (see definition below)	1190
27. Transubstantiation⁶ , proclaimed by pope Innocent III	1215
28. Auricular (out loud) Confession of sins to a priest instead of to God , instituted by pope Innocent III, in Lateral council	1215
29. Adoration⁷ of the wafer (Host), decreed by pope Honorius III	1220

¹ **Extreme Unction** "the sacrament of anointing the sick in the Rom. Cath. Ch." (Webster's Dictionary, p. 463)

² **Temporal** "pertaining to the present life, worldly." (Webster's Dictionary, p. 1325)

³ **Canonization** to declare (a dead person) officially as a saint. (Webster's Dictionary, p. 193)

⁴ **Inquisition** "a formal special tribunal, engaged chiefly in combating and punishing heresy" (Webster's, p. 675)

⁵ **Indulgences** "a partial remission (by the Roman Church) of the temporal punishment that is still due for sin after absolution. (Webster's Dictionary, p. 666)

⁶ **Transubstantiation** "the changing of one substance into another. 2. (in the Eucharist) the conversion of the whole substance of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, only the appearance of bread and wine remaining. (Webster's Dictionary, p. 1368)

⁷ **Adoration** "the act of paying honor, as to a divine being; worship" (Webster's Dictionary, p. 18)

30. Bible forbidden to laymen , placed on the Index of Forbidden books by the council of Toulouse	1229
31. The Scapular ⁸ , invented by Simon Stock, an English monk	1251
32. Cup forbidden to the people at communion by Council of Constance	1414
33. Purgatory ⁹ proclaimed as a dogma by the Council of Florence	1439
34. The doctrine of Seven Sacraments affirmed	1439
35. The Ave Maria (Hail Mary) (part of last half finished 50 years later)	1508
36. Jesuit order founded by Loyola	1534
37. Tradition declared as equal authority with the Bible /Council of Trent	1545
38. Apocryphal books ¹⁰ added to the Bible by the Council of Trent	1546
39. Creed of pope Pius IV imposed as the official creed	1560
40. Immaculate Conception ¹¹ of the Virgin Mary, proclaimed by pope Pius IX	1854
41. Syllabus of Errors , proclaimed by pope 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 popes temporal authority over all civil rulers.	1864
42. Infallibility of the pope ¹² in matters of faith and morals, proclaimed by the Vatican Council	1870
43. Public Schools condemned by pope Pius XI	1930
44. Assumption ¹³ of the Virgin Mary (bodily ascension into heaven shortly after her death), proclaimed by pope Pius XII	1950
45. Mary proclaimed Mother of the Church , by pope Paul VI	1965

This list of Catholic Inventions compiled by:

Boettner, Loraine, *Roman Catholicism*, The Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company: Phillipsburg, 1962.
Pg. 7-9.

Definitions/ Explanations in footnotes provided by:

Random House Webster's College Dictionary, Random House New York. 1996.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Doubleday New York, 1995.

⁸ **The Scapular** "either of two small cloth pieces joined by strings passing over the shoulders, worn under clothing as a badge of affiliation with a religious order or as an act of religious devotion." (*Webster's Dictionary*, p. 1156)

⁹ **Purgatory** "(esp. in Roman Catholic belief) a place or state following death in which penitent souls are purified of venial sins or undergo the temporal punishment still remaining for forgiven mortal sins and thereby are made ready for heaven. 2. Any condition or place of temporary punishment, suffering, or expiation. (*Webster's*, p. 1058)

¹⁰ **Apocryphal books** "1. A group of books not found in Jewish or Protestant versions of the Old Testament but included in the Septuagint and Roman Catholic editions of the Bible; 2. various religious writings of uncertain origin; 3. Writings or statements of doubtful authenticity." (*Webster's Dictionary*, 62)

¹¹ **Immaculate Conception** "(Mary) was redeemed (given salvation) from the moment of her conception." (*Catholic Catechism*, article 491)

¹² **Infallibility** "immune from fallacy, or error in expounding matters of faith and morals." (*Webster's Dictionary*)

¹³ **Assumption** "Finally, the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory..." (*Catholic Catechism*, article 491)
"(Mary) committed no sin of any kind during her whole earthly life" (*Catholic Catechism*, article 411)