

# The Catholic Reformation and the Jesuits

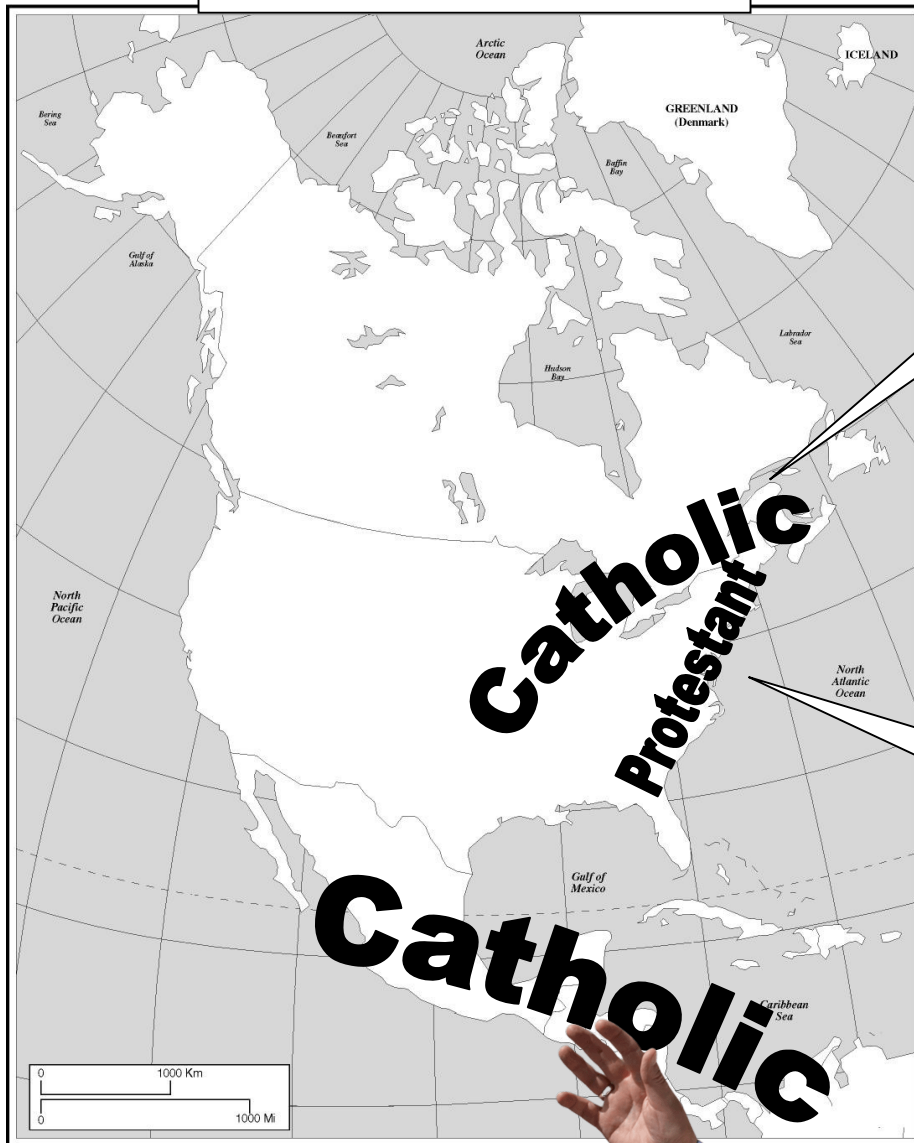
- In the early 16<sup>th</sup> century Europe underwent *The Reformation Period*, a split between the Roman Catholic Church and *Protestant Churches*. It is important to note that there was also a Catholic Reformation (sometimes called the “Counter Reformation”).
- The Catholic Reformation can be seen as a complete self-examination and “closing of ranks” of the church in reaction to the Protestant movement. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) was convened to denounce the Protestant Movement, reorganize the Roman Catholic Church and rid it of corruption.
- The Catholic Church desperately needed new clergy (priests) to stop and reclaim the churches that were breaking away from Rome, as well as spreading Catholicism in the newly discovered regions of the world.
- Spanish soldier-mystic Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) founded the Jesuit order in 1540.
  - Aspirants to the Jesuit order faced many obstacles – they had to be highly educated, pious, and completely devoted to the Jesuit way of life.
  - “The Jesuit had to resign his will and intellect to the keeping of the general of the order and the pope, to serve them as willingly as a stick serves the hand that wields it.”
  - Jesuits answered Protestant pamphlets and debaters, ministered to Catholics in Protestant lands, opened schools throughout Europe, taught military drills and ballistics as well as Latin and philosophy. They were Humanists.
  - Jesuits were there to convert. They preached, argued, taught, and counseled throughout the world.
- The order spread rapidly throughout Europe, had traversed vast tracts of India, preached the Gospel in Japan, entered Ethiopia, penetrated to the court of the Great Mogul, and had made their way in regions as far away as Paraguay.
- Fathers Biard and Masse may have sailed for New France as early as 1611. They landed in Port Royal to preach the gospel to the Mi'kmaq whose territory, including the Bay of Fundy. Lack of support of the acting-governor of Port Royal, as well as an attack on the community and capture of the missionaries by an English raider from Virginia, put an early end to the mission.





- The Jesuits returned in 1625, landing in the settlement at Québec. They penetrated deep into New France, establishing contact with many First Nations. They did not conquer, rather they embedded themselves in the various communities they made contact with. **A strong relationship was established with the Huron/Wendat Nation.**

Where do they go?



The Jesuits & other Catholic orders penetrate deep into the interior.

The English (Dutch, Germans, Swedish) settlers stick to the eastern coastline.

Pope Francis (r. 2013-Present Day)  
is the first Jesuit to become pontiff.