The history of the Catholic Church begins with the teachings of Jesus Christ, who lived in the 1st century CE in the province of Judea of the Roman Empire. The contemporary Catholic Church says that it is the continuation of the early Christian community established by Jesus. Christianity spread throughout the early Roman Empire despite persecutions due to conflicts with the pagan state religion. In 313, the struggles of the early church were lessened by the legalization of Christianity by the Emperor Constantine I. In 380, under Emperor Theodosius I, Christianity became the state religion of the The Catholic historian insists on the supernatural character of the Church, its doctrines, institutions, and standards of life, in so far as they rest on Divine revelation, and acknowledge the continual guidance of the Church by the Holy Ghost. All this is for him objective reality, certain truth, and the only foundation for the true, scientific pragmatism of ecclesiastical history. It also includes full recognition and use of the scientific historical method. As a matter of fact, the history of the Church exhibits most clearly a special guidance and providence of God. A final characteristic, which ecclesiastical history has in common with every other species of history, is impartiality. St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City. Overview. Pope: Francis. Hierarchy. History (timeline). Theology. Liturgy. Sacraments. Mary. Catholic Church portal. v. t. e. The history of the Catholic Church is the formation, events, and transformation of the Catholic Church through time. The origin of the Catholic Church is debated. The tradition of the Catholic Church claims the Catholic Church began with Jesus Christ and his teachings (c. 4 BC & c. AD 30); the Catholic tradition considers that the Catholic