Chapter 12: Part Three
The Avignon Papacy & The Great Western Schism

Avignon Papacy
- For **20 years** (1309 to 1378) the Pope did not live in Rome but in **Avignon, France**.
- This period of time became known as the **Avignon Papacy**.

**Papal Palace**

Avignon Papacy
- So where is Avignon?

St. Catherine of Siena
- Catherine (1347-1380) is known for convincing the pope to return to Rome.
- She was also the first woman to receive the **stigmata**.

St. Catherine of Siena
- At sixteen, she joined the Dominican Sisters, and dedicated herself to the poor and sick of Siena, especially those suffering from the **Bubonic Plague**.
- After a while, Christ called her to a more **public life**.
- Christ called St. Catherine to "heal the wounds of the Church" which was experiencing the Avignon papacy.
- She wrote letters and met with the pope in Avignon, where she finally convinces Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome.
Great Western Schism

- After the death of Pope Gregory XI in 1378, the people desired an Italian; in fact, a mob violently demanded an Italian.

Great Western Schism

- The cardinals first elected the Italian Urban VI.
- Many cardinals did not like this decision because they felt that Urban was only elected because he was Italian, not because he deserved it.
- The unhappy cardinals got together and elected Clement VII, who returned the papacy to Avignon, France.

Great Western Schism

- Antipope – Someone who claims to be the Pope, but who is actually not.

Great Western Schism

- With two men claiming to be pope, this began the Great Western Schism.
- Catholics in Europe were unsure who was the real pope!

Great Western Schism

- Each nation and political rulers would rally around their own Pope.
The Council of Pisa (1409):
- Attempted to depose both popes and elect a third man who believed he was pope.
- Antipope Alexander V
- Most people rejected the Council of Pisa’s election
- Now there were three men claiming to be pope.

Great Western Schism
- The situation lasted almost 40 years.
  - When the Pope and Antipopes died, they were replaced by new Popes and Antipopes.
  - The “Line of Succession” is maintained through the true Pope—the successor of Peter.

The Council of Constance (1414-1418):
- The Roman and French pope abdicate (i.e., give up power) and Pisa’s pope lost all support.
- Martin V, a Roman, is elected pope, ending the schism.