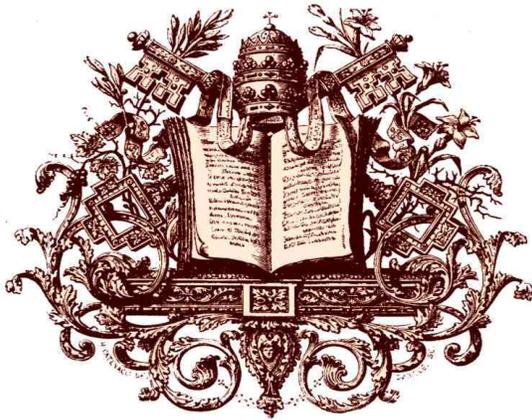


INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY BIBLE

Many Protestants are fond of claiming that such doctrines and practices as Transubstantiation and Confession are “unbiblical” and, therefore, “Catholic Inventions”. While the *word* “Transubstantiation” was indeed invented by the Catholic Church, the *truth* expressed in that word was invented centuries earlier when Our Lord Jesus Christ, as recorded in the Bible, took bread and said over it, “This IS MY BODY”. Being God incarnate, He can make something a reality simply by saying it, just as He did when He said, “Let there be light”. A careful reading of John 6 reveals that Our Lord meant very literally what He said. Similarly, the confession of sins to His priests was very clearly indicated in the Scriptures when He said to his first priests, “Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them. Whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.” How can His priests know what sins to forgive, and which ones to retain, if they do not first *hear* of the sins by means of confession? Thus, these things are not inventions of the Catholic Church, but were invented by its Divine Founder, Our Lord Jesus Christ. But there *are Catholic inventions*, that is, things that never existed until the Church invented them, and which the Church invented without any specific Scriptural mandate to do so. One of those inventions is, ironically, used extensively by Protestants, though usually in a corrupted form, and is warped by them into an instrument with which to bludgeon Catholics. What Catholic invention could this be? Would you like a clue? Here are some questions: Where in Holy Scripture does Our Lord Jesus Christ tell His Apostles to print and/or distribute and/or read Bibles? We know that Our Lord instructed His disciples to *preach* His Gospel, but in what passage is found the command or suggestion to gather up the existing scriptures, add more to them (by writing the Gospels, epistles, etc.) and assemble them into a single volume called “The Holy Bible”? In fact, where, in Scripture, does the word “Bible” appear, other than on the Title page (which is not found in any original manuscript), and what Book of the Bible reveals which scriptures belong in the Bible, and which ones do not? The answer, of course, is that none of these things are found anywhere in the Bible! And, of all the many books of the New Testament, only the Apocalypse of St. John (“Revelation”) records any command from Our Lord Jesus Christ that any *individual* book should be written. Consider, please, the following historical facts:



1. The very first volume of the Holy Bible, the Latin Vulgate, was compiled by St. Jerome, a *Catholic monk*, at the *request of Pope Damasus*.

2. The very first printed edition of the Bible was the Mazarin or Gutenberg Bible, printed by the devout *Catholic*, Johann Gutenberg, *at the request of the Catholic Bishop of Mainz*.
3. The very first chapter and verse divisions in the Bible, retained in all Bibles to the present day, were conceived by Stephen Langton, *a Catholic priest* who later became Archbishop of Canterbury.
4. The Greek Septuagint version of the Old Testament found in Catholic Bibles, not the Hebrew version found in Protestant Bibles, was the version most popular with the Apostles. Proof of this is seen in the fact that, of the 350 quotations of the Old Testament found in the New Testament, 300 were taken from the Greek Septuagint.
5. Before Luther's German translation of the Bible the Catholic Church had already published nineteen complete editions in German, 156 complete editions in Latin, 11 complete editions in Italian, 10 complete editions in French, 8 complete editions in Greek, 2 complete editions in Spanish, 2 complete editions in Bohemian, 1 complete edition in Flemish and 1 complete edition in Russian.
6. Before his death Martin Luther admitted that the Catholic Church is the mother of the Holy Bible. In his Commentary on St. John, Luther wrote: "We are compelled to concede to the Papists, that they have the Word of God, that we received it from them, and that without them we should have no knowledge of it at all."
7. The book, *The Imitation of Christ*, second only to the Bible in popularity among Protestants, was written by Thomas à Kempis, a Catholic monk.
8. The Apostles and all of the primitive Church Fathers confessed to being Catholics. Apostles' Creed: "I believe in the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, etc." The Nicene Creed: "I believe in one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church."
9. To the Apostle Peter, Christ said: "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build My church" (Matt. 16:18). Christian tradition has always held and recent excavations have confirmed that the headquarters of the Catholic Church in Rome is located immediately above the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle.
10. *The Holy Bible itself*, therefore, *is a Catholic invention* in the truest sense of the term. Without the oral Tradition of the Catholic Church and its Divinely granted authority to invent it ("Whatsoever you shall bind upon earth shall be bound in heaven..."), Protestants would have no Bible at all to thump at Catholics. Say "Thank you".



During the 20 years from 1935-1955 over 3000 Protestant ministers became converts to the Catholic faith. One of these, Paul Whitcomb, wrote the very interesting and enlightening story of his journey toward the true Church founded by Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is entitled "The Bible Made A Catholic Out of Me", and it is available from this website as a free download, courtesy of friends who seek the Kingdom of Christ.

(Illustrations from the Catholic Art Gallery CD-ROM, from Rosary Graphics. E-mail at graphics73@yahoo.com)