

# Contents

Reclaiming Catholic History: Series Introduction	ix
Chronology of <i>The Church and the Dark Ages (430–1027)</i>	xiii
Map	xvi
Introduction: Anything but “Dark”	xix
Chapter 1: Our Roman Heritage	1
Up Close and Personal: St. Augustine of Hippo	2
You Be the Judge: Did Christianity cause the collapse of the Roman Empire?	9
Chapter 2: The Church among Gauls and Goths	11
Up Close and Personal: The Cloak of St. Martin	14
You Be the Judge: Did St. Augustine invent the doctrine of original sin?	18
Chapter 3: The Age of St. Benedict	29
Up Close and Personal: The <i>Dialogues</i> of St. Gregory the Great	32
You Be the Judge: Did Christianity cause a decline in education and literacy in the early Middle Ages?	40
Chapter 4: Missionary Monks	45
Up Close and Personal: Sts. Cyril and Methodius	53
You Be the Judge: Were monks “useless”?	57
Chapter 5: The Church of Rome	59
Up Close and Personal: Pope Gregory the Great and Gregorian Chant	65

You Be the Judge: What <i>really</i> happened when Pope Leo the Great met Attila the Hun?	70
Chapter 6: East and West	73
Up Close and Personal: St. Maximus the Confessor	84
You Be the Judge: Did the Eastern churches ever affirm the primacy of Rome?	87
Chapter 7: The Carolingian Renaissance	89
Up Close and Personal: The Faith of Charlemagne	92
You Be the Judge: Wasn't the Church consumed with worry over the spread of Islam?	99
Chapter 8: Imperium and Sacerdotium	101
Up Close and Personal: King Alfred the Great	111
You Be the Judge: Do bad popes disprove papal infallibility?	115
Chapter 9: Sacramental Controversies	117
Up Close and Personal: St. Paschasius Radbertus	126
You Be the Judge: Is the dogma of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist a late medieval invention?	136
Chapter 10: The Cluniac Reform	139
Up Close and Personal: St. Berno	140
You Be the Judge: Was priestly celibacy an innovation of the late Middle Ages?	148
Conclusion: Transformation and Continuity	151
Notes	155
Index	159