

Apostles and Apostolicity in Catholic Thought Antiquity to Pre-Vatican II

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What WERE
the
Apostles?

Singular, Unrepeatable
BRIDGE between Christ
and the subsequent
Church

God>Christ>**Apostles**>Bishops

1 Clement (96 AD)

Who WERE the Apostles?

Specific named individuals

- Peter the Prince of Apostles
- Peter and Paul, Chief Apostles
- The Twelve



Apostles
in
Art
Legend
Theology



Traditio Legit



Traditio Legit

Basilica di San Lorenzo Maggiore in Milan, Italy. Picture by Giovanni Dall'Orto, wikimedia commons



filled with the Spirit, they composed this brief formulary of their future preaching, each contributing his several sentence to one common summary: and they ordained that the rule thus framed should be given to those who believe.
(Rufinus of Aquileia 307-309)

Thomas Aquinas on Apostles

- Christ the principal apostle- the twelve secondary apostles
- Greatest of saints, ranked after Christ and Mary
- Uniquely gifted – holiness, knowledge, miracles
- First instructors of the church orally and in writing
- Appointed Bishops as their successors

Apostolicity: Antidote to Heresy

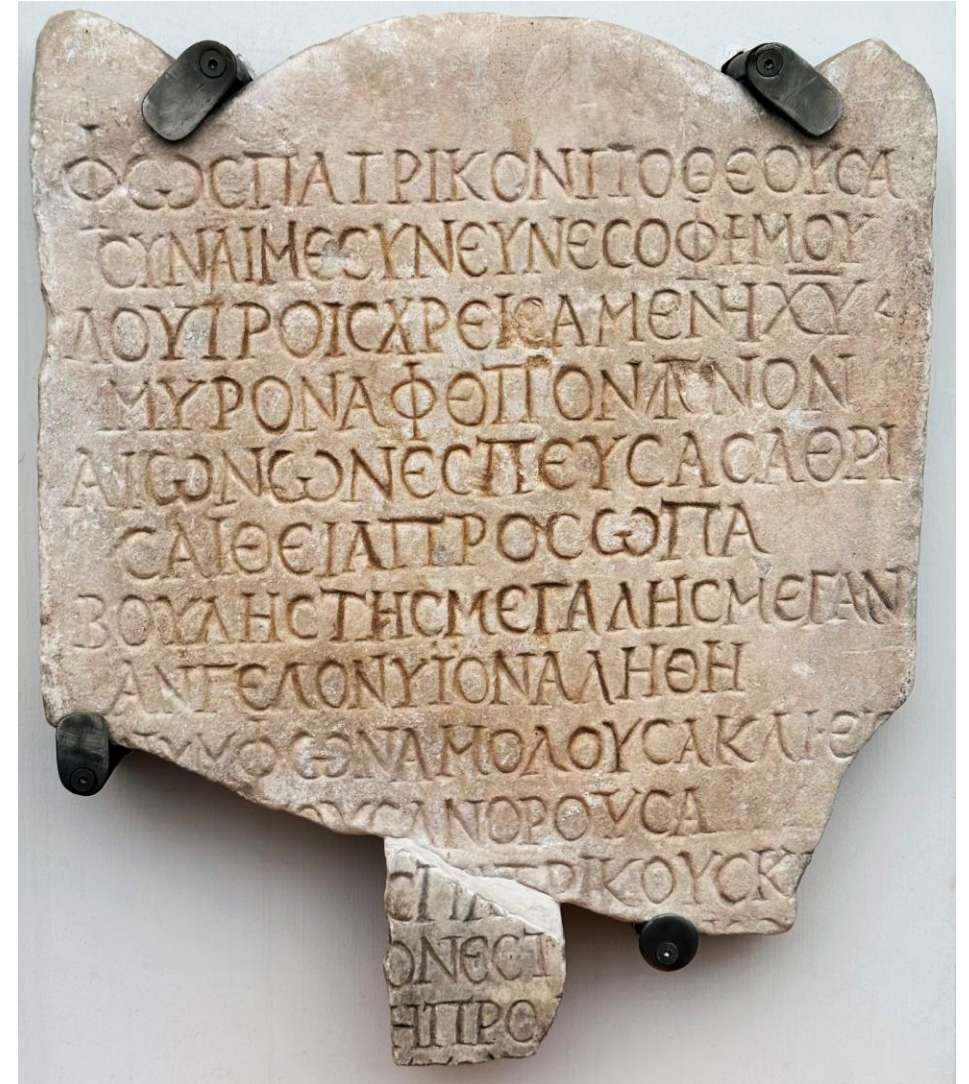
Irenaeus vs Gnostics
2nd Century



Who were the gnostics?

Second century

- New Age Movement
- Modernist Movement
- Antisemitic Movement



CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Apostolic Origin
- Apostolic Writings
 - 4 gospels
- Apostolic Tradition
 - Rule of Faith
- Apostolic Succession

GNOSTICS

- Recent Origin
- Gnostic Writings
 - Gnostic “gospels”
- Secret Traditions
 - Esoteric teachings
- Heretical lineage

The Catholic 3-Legged Stool



Apostolic
Writings
SCRIPTURE

Apostolic
Tradition
TRADITION

Apostolic
Succession
MAGISTERIUM

Apostolicity: Antidote to Schism

Francis de Sales

Vs

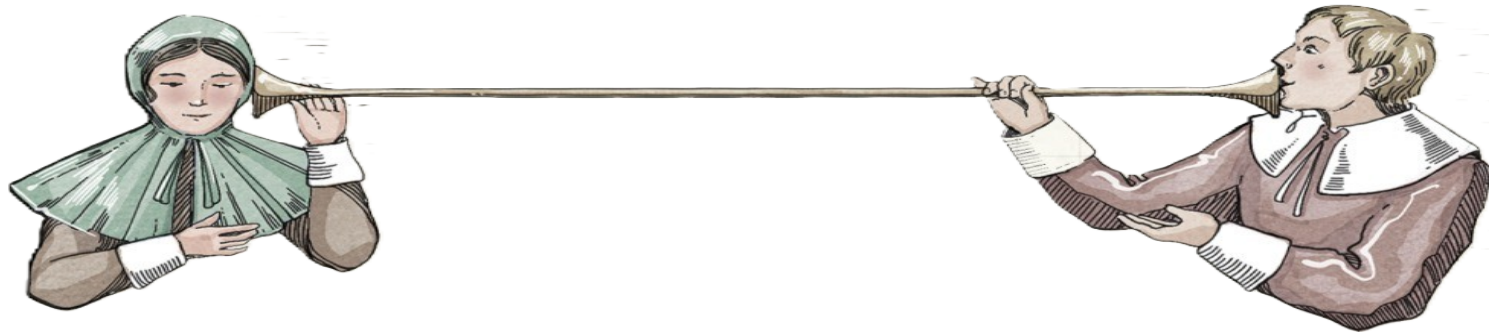
Protestant Reformers

16-17th Century



Who appointed reformers as “ambassadors” of Christ?

it would have required a very long speaking-tube in the mouth of the first founders of the Church to call Luther and the rest without being overheard by any of those who were between



Where are the miracles to confirm the Protestant founders' immediate call?

No one should allege an extraordinary mission unless he prove it by miracles...Never was any one extraordinarily sent unless he brought this letter of credit from the divine Majesty....If then they allege extraordinary mission, let them show us some extraordinary works, otherwise we are not obliged to believe them.

Apostolicity: Antidote to Modern Errors

Rome

Vs

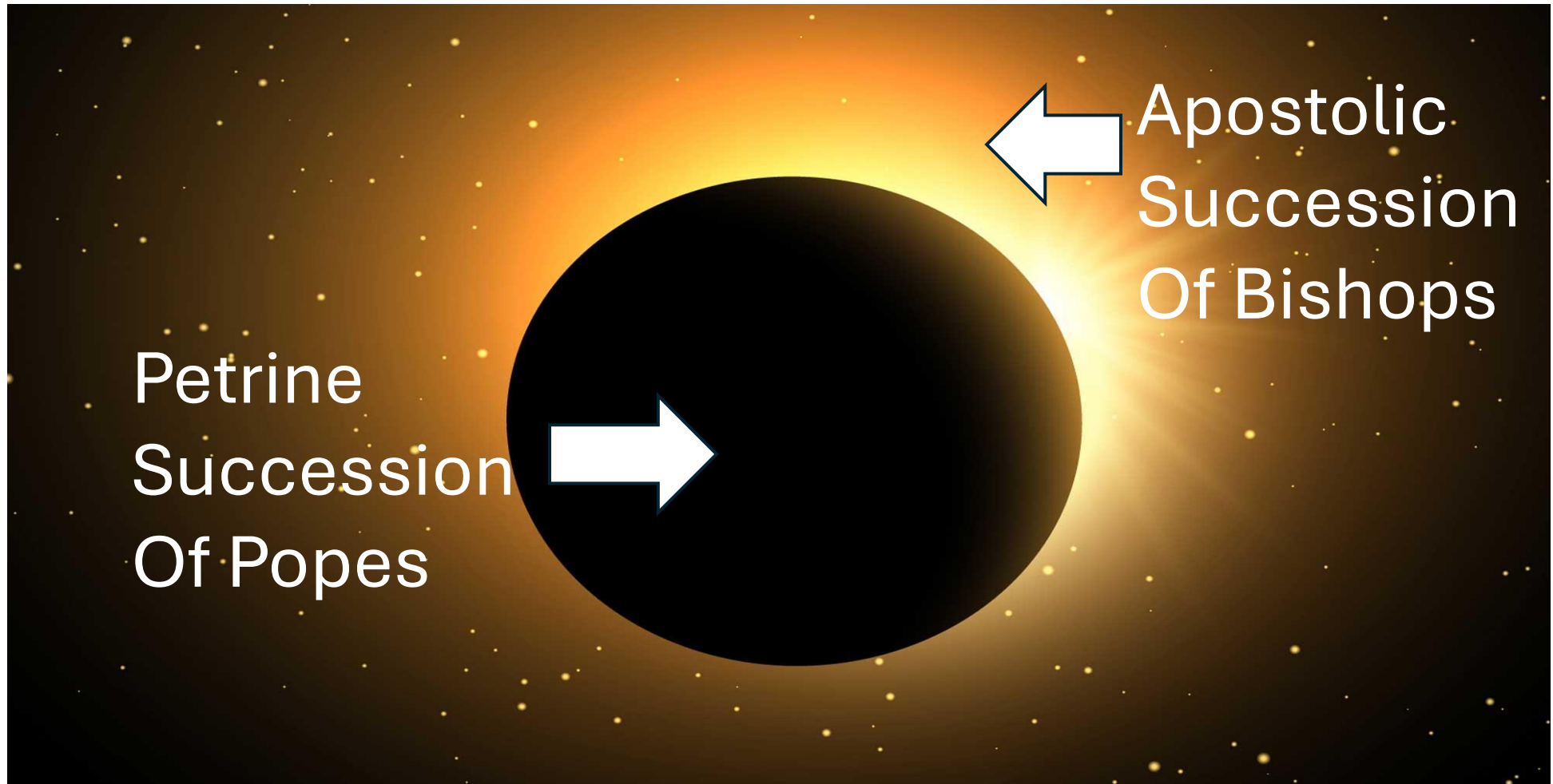
The Modern Age
19th Century



Pius IX, *Syllabus of Errors* 1864

- **Condemned:** naturalism, pantheism, rationalism, indifferentism, socialism, communism, liberalism
- **Rejected:** “The Roman Pontiff can, and ought to, reconcile himself, and come to terms with progress, liberalism and modern civilization.”
- **Asserted:** Authority of the Church expressed by its head the Pope

Vatican I, an unfinished Council, 1869-70



Anglican Orders?

- *Apostolicae Curae* (Leo XIII, 1896)
- Apostolic Succession defined canonically
 - Form and Intent of rite



Looking forward

Need for positive engagement
with modern world

Need for clear articulation of
role of Bishops

Need for broader concept of
apostolic succession