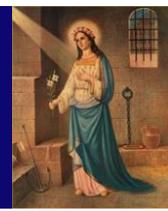


Brief Summary Of Monday's Faith Talk: The History of the Church- The Persecutions, 313AD To Constantine's Edict



- ✧ Thousands were martyred for their faith
- ✧ Domitian was the first Roman Emperor to declare himself 'Lord and God'.
- ✧ The Christian persecution during this period can be divided into 10 episodes. The first 4 were localized and sporadic. The following 6 were generalized and systematic.
- ✧ Any citizen refusing to pay homage was regarded as a 'bad' citizen and to be duly punished. Christians' refusal to sacrifice to Roman Gods was blamed for causing natural disasters from floods to plagues. Christianity was singled out for persecution because it alone was evangelistic.
- ✧ During the Decius persecution, a third of the empire's population was Christian. In order to unite the citizens under one Roman religion against Barbarian invasion, the emperor issued a decree to exterminate all Christians. Some apostatized. They were called "lapsi". Once the persecution was over, a dispute arose as how to treat those who had renounced their faith and now wished to return to the fold. The fruit of this dispute was a clarifying of the teaching on the sacrament of confession.
- ✧ During this time the first monks retired into the desert
- ✧ In 285 Roman sovereignty split into East under Diocletian, succeeded by Constantine and in the west Maximinius, who was succeeded Maxentius .

Emperor	Dates AD	Famous Martyrs (those in bold are named in the Canon of the Mass)	
Nero	64-91	St Peter, St Paul	Localized
Domitian	94-96	St John	
Trajan	98-117	St Clement , St Ignatius of Antioch	
Marcus-Aurelius	177-180	St Blandina (Lyon), St Justin of Rome	
Septimius-Severius	202-211	Ss Pepertua & Felicity	Generalized & systematic
Maximinus	235-238		
Decius	249-251		
Valerius	253-260	St Lawrence, St. Cyprian, St Tarcisius	
Aurelius	270-275		
Diocletian	284-311	Ss Cosmas & Damian, St. Agnes, St Lucy, St Philomena	

- ✧ Maxentius waged war on Constantine. On approaching Rome, Constantine saw a cross of light in the heavens and the words 'With this sign thou shalt win.' The following night Christ appeared in his dream and told him to adopt the cross as his standard. Constantine obeyed and was victorious.
- ✧ 315 AD - Freedom to worship was established by Constantine's Edict in Milan.
- ✧ Next battle was against the Arian heresy. This denied that Jesus was of the same substance as God the Father.
- ✧ The first Council of Nicea 325 AD established the Creed that professed the essential unity of the Father and the Son as Consubstantial.