

Pre-Nicene Church Worksheet #2

1. **Roman Empire**- Dominant power of the Mediterranean world; Along with Hellenistic culture was the social and philosophical context towards which Christianity spread
2. **Catacomb**- Underground tombs where Christians worshiped and celebrated Eucharist in secret to escape Roman persecutions
3. **Church Fathers**- Faithful men (and women) who handed down, preached, defended, and died for the Faith as preached by Christ and given to His Apostles
4. **Didache (disputed date)** – The “Teaching of the Twelve” which was rediscovered in 1873; Outlines early Christian forms of Baptism and Eucharist
5. **Epistle of St. Clement (~80-140 AD)**- Letter written to the Corinthians; Once read publicly to the Church in Corinth, often included in early canons of the New Testament
6. **Ignatian Epistles (~100 AD)**- Seven letters written by St. Ignatius to the Ephesians, Magnesians, Trallians, Philadelphians, Smyrnans, and to St. Polycarp (There are other letters which have been shown to be spurious); Emphasized the authority of the Bishop in relation to the *Catholic* Church; Discussed the “real presence” in the Eucharist
7. **Martyrdom of St. Polycarp (~150 AD)**- Document describing the execution of Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, in his 86th year, after refusing to deny Christ. The author is unknown though the story has been transmitted by Eusebius.
8. **St. Justin Martyr**-
 - a. **First & Second Apologies (~150 AD)**- “Apology” for Christianity written to the Emperors defending Christians against persecution; Outlined liturgical Church practices, describes “real presence;” Describes the truth in Greek philosophy and poetry and how it points to Christ
 - b. **Dialogue with Trypho (~150 AD)**- St. Justin's conversation with Trypho, a Jew, on how all truth, as well as the Scriptures lead to Christ
9. **Against Heresies (180 AD)- Ireneaus of Lyons**- Detailed several forms of Gnostic heresy ; Systematically used Scripture to prove that Christ was the fulfillment of the Old Testament
10. **Tertullian (d. 220 AD)**- Not a Saint in the Orthodox Church; Instrumental in elaborating Scriptural symbols and allegories and setting theological terminology

11. **Origen (d. 254 AD)** – Not a Saint in the Orthodox Church; Wrote theological commentaries making reference to Platonic philosophy which were used by many subsequent Church Fathers. Also believed in the “preexistence of souls” as well as universal salvation, ideas which were not fully accepted by the Church
12. **St. Cyprian of Carthage (d. 258 AD)**- African Saint who defended the importance of the Church and the role of the Bishop within it.
13. **St. Anthony (d. 356 AD)**- Egyptian Saint who is commonly ascribed as the founder of Monasticism
14. **Monasticism**- Movement in which men and women willfully separated themselves from society in order to fully focus on prayer and fasting in the Spirit of John the Baptist.
15. **Emperor Constantine/Edict of Milan (313 AD)**- First Christian Emperor of Rome who converted before the Battle of the Milvian Bridge. Issued the Edict which legalized Christian worship in the Empire.