The Church’s ups & downs

1100s – 1500s AD
IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER:

There were many holy and not-so-holy ancient Israelites (Jews) throughout the Old Testament. The sinfulness of some of the Israelites never led God to completely reject them or create a new chosen people. Instead, God stuck with them and continued to fulfill His plans through them.

There have been many holy and not-so-holy Catholics throughout the last 2,000 years. The sinfulness of some Catholics has never led God to completely reject the Church or create a new Church (though many people have created new churches). Instead, God has stuck with the Catholic Church and continues to fulfill His plans through it.
St. Francis of Assisi gave up a life of money and popularity and began begging for food, taking care of the poor and sick, and preaching the Gospel to everyone he met. Francis’ followers, the Franciscans, are an example of a Mendicant Order, as are the Poor Clares, Dominicans, and Carmelites.

Mostly GOOD or mostly BAD?
The Crusades

The Crusades were “______” wars fought by Christians trying to get the ___ back from the ______ who took it years before. There were about ___ crusades in all, many of them being brutally violent and unsuccessful (the Church didn’t get all the Holy Land back from the Muslims in the end).

Mostly GOOD or mostly BAD?

![Illustration of medieval battle]

![Illustration of medieval battle]

![Illustration of medieval battle]
The Catholic Church is responsible for the creation of some of the earliest universities ever known. Advances in science and many other disciplines occurred because of the Catholic Church’s support of university education.
Churches began to be built bigger and more beautifully than ever before during this time period. The churches inspired people to be holy and even helped teach the faith (through paintings, stained-glass windows, etc.) to those who couldn’t read.

Mostly GOOD or mostly BAD?
The Inquisition

The Inquisition refers to the time when some Catholics punished people for being **heretics** (people who didn’t believe the true teachings of the Catholic Church). During this time numerous people were put in prison, fined money, and sometimes even **tortured** or **killed**. Instead of **hating** the sin and **loving** the sinner, some Catholics hated both the **sin** AND the **sinner** (not good). Today many people go too far the other way and think you should **love** the sinner AND **love** (accept) the sin (also not good).
St. Thomas Aquinas is arguably the **smartest** Catholic **philosopher** and **theologian** to ever live. During this time he (and many others) greatly helped to explain and defend the Catholic faith.

Mostly GOOD or mostly BAD?
For about 70 years different popes (some of them greedy and quite sinful) lived in Avignon, France instead of Rome, Italy. After St. Catherine of Siena convinced the pope to return to Rome some of the French cardinals were upset with the new pope and went back to France to elect their own “pope”. To resolve this issue a group elected a 3rd “pope”, which of course didn’t help. The fake popes at this time are now referred to as antipopes.

Mostly GOOD or mostly BAD?