

**CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS, OR A
BRIEF EXPOSITION OF THE HISTORY
AND THE TEACHINGS OF CHRISTIAN
DENOMINATIONS FOUND IN
ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

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Christian denominations, or A brief exposition of the history and the teachings of Christian denominations found in English-speaking countries by Vigilius H. Krull

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CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

OR

A Brief Exposition of the History and
Teachings of Christian Denominations
Found in English-Speaking Countries.

BY

FATHER VIGILIUS H. KRULL, C. PP. S.



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INTRODUCTION.

In offering this book to the public, I propose to furnish my readers with a brief, but reliable exposition of the history and teachings of the different Christian denominations found in this country; the name of the various founders together with a short sketch of their work and views; the time of the origin and the main teachings and practices of the many Christian denominations. The extensive extracts from the works of the Fathers and other ecclesiastical writers of the early Church will undoubtedly be of interest to the earnest Christian.

With the help of God's grace and the aid of Holy Scripture and sound reason, turning the flash-light of true history upon every organization mentioned in this book, we can easily detect and distinguish the true Church, which Jesus Christ, the Son of God, founded, from any and every purely human institution. "Seek and you shall find."

If this book brings my readers nearer to Jesus, "who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His blood," I consider my work amply repaid.

THE AUTHOR.



CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Jesus Christ the Originator of Christianity and the Founder of the Catholic Church.

Hundreds of years before He was born at Bethlehem of the ever Blessed Virgin Mary and the angels of heaven and a wonderful star announced His advent, the divinely inspired prophets of old minutely foretold the signs of the time, the circumstances of the birth, and the whole life-story of Jesus Christ.

The elements of nature obeyed His voice: He calmed the storm on the sea, changed the water into wine, twice miraculously multiplied the loaves of bread, and healed all kinds of disease. The bounding waves of the raging sea served Him as a solid pathway as He walked over them and hastened to His frightened disciples. "It is I; be not afraid." St. John 6; 20.

He spoke with divine authority as He pointed out the way of salvation. Even His enemies declared: "Never did man speak like this man." St. John 7; 46. "The people were in admiration at his doctrine. For he was teaching them as one having power, and not as the scribes and Pharisees." St. Matth. 7; 28, 29.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Jesus drove out evil spirits. "And devils went out from many, crying out and saying: Thou art the Son of God. And rebuking them he suffered them not to speak; for they knew that he was Christ." St. Luke 4; 41.

"And having called his twelve disciples together, he gave them power over unclean spirits to cast them out and to heal all manner of diseases, and all manner of infirmities. And the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the publican, and James the son of Alpheus, and Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him." St. Matth. 10; 1-4.

These twelve Apostles Jesus sent out to preach His gospel, to help in saving souls. He appointed St. Peter as the visible head of the whole Church. When St. Peter made a public profession of his faith and said to Jesus: "Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God," Jesus said to him: "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father who is in heaven. And I say to thee: That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also

JESUS ORIGINATOR OF CHRISTIANITY

in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven." St. Matth. 16; 16-19.

At the sea of Tiberias in the presence of Thomas, Nathanael, John and James, Jesus said to Simon Peter: "Simon, son of John, lovest thou me more than these? He saith to him: Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. He saith to him: Feed my lambs. He saith to him again: Simon, son of John, lovest thou me? He saith to him: Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. He saith to him: Feed my lambs. He said to him the third time: Simon, son of John, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved, because he had said to him the third time: Lovest thou me? And he said to him: Lord, thou knowest all things: thou knowest that I love thee. He said to him: Feed my sheep." St. John 21; 15-17. Lambs and sheep constitute the entire flock. Jesus loved to call himself the Good Shepherd. St. Peter was to feed His flock; that is to say, St. Peter was appointed by Him as the supreme visible head of the Church.

Jesus founded but one Church. He called it the kingdom of Heaven, and likened it to a vineyard, to a grain of mustard-seed, to a garden, to a field, to a sheepfold, to a flock, to a net, to a banquet, to a house built on a mountain. All these figures, as well as His direct words to St. Peter, indicate that His Church is one. He founded but one Church for the salvation of all mankind. As