

### three popes at once

The Roman Catholic Church claims that the pope is head bishop of the Church and the Vicar of Christ and has been chosen by Jesus to stand in for him on earth to rule the Church, protect its doctrine and teach it as supreme shepherd. The pope is the rock the Church is built on. History would be to differ!

In 1378, cardinals in Rome elected an Italian pope, Urban VI. Urban showed signs of madness. The cardinals regretted electing him and said he was not a true pope for they had fiddled his election and were forced to elect him. Soon they gathered in a new conclave and produced a rival pope, Clement VII.

Urban VI wasn't mad all the time. He knew he shouldn't stay on as pope and should have resigned in favour of Clement VII. That way even if Clement were not validly elected he would still become pope.

Surely a pope who causes division and heresy like Urban and who is unsuitable must be considered an ex-Catholic who deposes himself from the papacy? It is ridiculous to say that a person who breaks from the Church becomes an ex-Catholic by excommunication and that a Catholic who causes others to break away or who keeps that kind of trouble up is still a true Catholic. The Church says that the pope like Peter is the rock Jesus said his Church is built on. Urban was not the rock the Church was built on. He was the hammer that smashed it. He was not the rock so he was not the pope.

All of the cardinals agreed that the election of Urban VI was invalid. They asserted that they didn't have any freedom during the conclave due to threats from a mob demanding a Roman or an Italian so the election was a fiddle. The mob had even invaded the building they were in. The Catholics say that Urban was accepted by the Church as pope and this made him pope even if the cardinals invalidly elected him. But how could their acceptance be genuine when it was based on the election that was a trick? In those times, the idea of deposing a pope was very acceptable. However, the cardinals didn't take that route. They just argued that you can't depose a non-pope. They didn't want a schism - they wanted the Church to accept Clement and ignore Urban. All this indicates their sincerity, the election really was fiddled. They didn't have to admit it and they did.

Anyway, the two rival popes caused the Great Western Schism and resulted in one Roman Catholic Church being led by Urban in Rome and another led by Clement VII in Avignon, France. Nobody knew then who the real pope was. St Catherine of Siena backed Urban and St Vincent Ferrer backed Clement VII. Both popes excommunicated one another and one another's followers as well. Each Church claimed to be the true Church and that the other was a fake Church. They launched violent crusades against one another with a view to killing each other. The confusion was exacerbated by the fact that the election of Urban was indeed carried out under threats of violence.

History says that before they let Urban know he was pope, they presented a Roman in pontifical robes to the mob as their pope. This was strange for they knew the mob would go berserk if they thought they were being fooled. It is possible that this was the man they really elected and not Urban? It certainly must have been the case. They changed their minds and lied about Urban being elected probably because they thought he would be a better political choice. They were wrong.

The Church today says that if an election is faked the pope chosen is still a valid pope for God doesn't want schism and God doesn't necessarily like the new pope. The Church doesn't believe this at all for if a female to male transsexual or somebody that had no intention of being a valid pope and who didn't believe in it or if a plastic surgery copy of some papable person was made pope they would consider this an invalid election resulting in a fake pope. All the Church acceptance in the world cannot help. The Church says that a woman does not validly accept a man she doesn't know well enough to be her husband. Her accepting is not real accepting and they fail to validly marry. So why should it be different if a papal election is invalid and accepted by the Church? If acceptance by the Church is valid then why don't they acknowledge Alexander V (who was appointed when the Council of Pisa deposed both the Roman and Avignon popes as heretics and schismatics) as a real pope when he had the most support and the Roman pontiff Gregory XII who they consider the true pope had hardly anybody? Didn't the whole Church accept antipope Vigilus leaving the alleged real pope Saint Silverius in a dungeon without any followers or support? (page 125, Reasons for Hope).

Today the Church regards Urban VI and his successors as the real popes. They were not so the Church today is in communion with fake popes and so is schismatic and heretical. To follow the wrong pope is heresy for it means you believe in the wrong rock and regard the wrong man as shepherd and father and teacher of all Christians. Antipopes are not infallible so they are dangerous and since the supreme authority in Catholicism is tradition it follows that the wrong pope means separation from tradition and the means of its protection and the forfeiture of its infallibility.

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## THE WEB

Pope John Paul II condemned as an immoral and traitorous and heretical pope  
[www.trosch.org](http://www.trosch.org)

Of Bones and Boners: St Peter at the Vatican, Frank R. Zindler ,  
[www.atheists.org/church/bones.html](http://www.atheists.org/church/bones.html)

Has Rome Become the Seat of the Antichrist? Br Michael Diamond OSB  
<http://catalog.com/endtimes/diamond.html>

This page claims that prophecies about the Vatican apostatising have come true and that the pope, John Paul II is a fake and a heretic. It reports on evidence from Masons and Communists that they had a plan to subvert the Church from within and had placed spies and impostors in the Church. Pope John Paul II was the first pope not to take the standard oath to defend the traditions of the Church and the canon laws and to excommunicate anyone who threatened the faith of the Church. That shows that there is more to this heretic than meets the eye and he is famous for allowing fake Catholics to function within the Church. Padre Pio who was famous for seeing the future snubbed Karol Wojtyla, he who would become John Paul II. It is said too that John Paul II having stated that religious freedom is lawful is contradicting Leo XIII who said that once you give men the right to believe whatever they will you give them the right to refuse to believe in loving God and remove all restraint on crime. It has been noticed too that the pope claims that Muslims worship the same God as Christians though the Muslim God said that anybody who believes in a three in one God is as impure as dung. In 1986 the pope let ash that was a sign of devotion to the Hindu god Shiva be placed on his forehead. In Assisi 1986 the pope invited devil-worshipping animists to pray with him there for peace. The psalm says that the gods of the pagans are all evil or demons (95:5). And there have been similar meetings since, ones in Warsaw and Bari for instance. Another fault is that Cardinal Ratzinger, the pope's right hand man, has stated that the resurrection of Jesus is not a historical event the way the crucifixion of Jesus is. The 1917 Code of Canon Law states that if the pope becomes a heretic he is no longer pope. Even the autocratic Innocent III stated that a pope who becomes a heretic is to be cast out and ignored.