

Catholics in Antebellum America

Religion in America

French Catholicism

- A divided church in New Orleans

Spanish Catholicism: missions

- Mixed success in New Mexico

Zuñi Pueblo Mission

Small success in Texas

San Francisco de la Espada,

San Antonio

Franciscans in California

- Father Junípero Serra

Mission at Loreto, California

San Carlos mission, Carmel, California

Floods from Europe

- Irish potato famine, 1840s
 - *1 million poor Irish Catholics to U.S.*
- Failed 1848 Revolution in Germany
 - *German Protestant & Catholic middle-class*

Catholic Growing Pains

- Phenomenal growth of Catholic Church
 - *Number of churches up 885% 1820-50*
 - *Largest denomination by 1860*
- Huge ethnic diversity and tensions
 - *Discrimination strengthens Catholic identity*
 - *Tension between Germans & Irish & others*

Anti-Catholicism returns

- Effects of Second Great Awakening
- The cross: “outward emblem of Popery”
 - *1854: mob attacks chapel, burns cross*
- Schools: Battleground
 - *Requirements of Bible & prayer in schools*
 - *Catholic Church protests*
 - *Separate public schools?*
 - Protestants: separation of church and state!
 - *Catholics set up parochial school system*

Anti-Catholic riots

- 1834 Ursuline Convent burned, Boston

Anti-Catholic books

1844 “Bible riots” in Philadelphia

- Mob burns two Catholic churches

St. Augustine’s Church burned, 1844

Know-Nothing Party, 1850s

Catholic conspiracy against America?

Effects on Protestants

- Cultural effects: teaching Americans to have fun
 - *Halloween, Christmas*
 - *Saloons and urban lower-class entertainments*
 - *Salacious and sensationalist books and cheap newspapers*
- “Ritual envy”
- Worry about attraction of Catholicism’s “superstitions”
- The cross: Recapture a central Christian symbol

■ The Gothic revival