11.3 Papal Rome, 1450-1550

1) Papacy moved to Avignon (France) 1309-1377
   - When the Papacy left town, of course, it created a hiatus of sorts, a vacuum, as the political power and the wealth temporarily departed.
   - Rome in a sense stagnated during this time but then was reinvigorated when the Papacy returned

2) Papal Restoration
   - Pope Nicholas V begins the demolition of Old St. Peter’s (322 CE-1500) by commissioning a new apse in 1450.
   - New apse designed by Bernardo Rossellino (who designed Pienza for Pius II)
   - By 1500, Old St. Peter’s was completely razed to make way for the new church
   - Pope Alexander VI (Borgia) builds Via Alessandrini (1499). Rome’s first straight street is built from the front of the Castel Sant’Angelo to an area in front of the site of St. Peter’s. It becomes the location for several important palaces.
   - Palazzo Castellesi finished on the Via Alessandrina by 1520 (the Florentine ideal of civic beauty) build for Cardinal Adriano Castellesi da Corneto. Architect: Andrea Bregno
   - Cancelleria (1489-1513) Bramante. First complete Roman palace designed in the Renaissance style. Courtyard has a good solution for interior corner problem by using intersecting piers which give the appearance of strength. Restrained, tight facade with a distinct piano nobile and use of orders.
   - Palazzo Caprini (1501) Bramante. Rusticated base, with a refined piano nobile at the second level using pairs of doric columns with a doric entablature. Aedicule windows with balustrades.
   - Tempietto (1502) Bramante. A High Renaissance small, round temple at San Pietro in Montorio inside a square courtyard. Original design showed Tempietto inside a circular colonnaded courtyard. Small dome raised on a drum to make it appear taller in a small space.
   - Bramante becomes Pope Julius II’s favorite architect (Julius II rules 1503-1513). Bramante wins competition for St. Peter’s and develops a design that includes a shallow dome (1506).
   - St. Peter’s goes through several versions (see pg 455 Ingersoll) ultimately building Pius IV / Michelangelo version. Nave extended forward by Paul V / Maderno in 1610.

   - Leo X chooses Raphael as his architect. Raphael designs the Villa Madama for Guillaume de ’Medici (who later becomes Pope Clement VII and loses the Battle of Pavia)
   - Raphael does a design for St. Peter’s as well
   - Raphael’s School of Athens - the perfect embodiment of the spirit of the Renaissance. In the Stanza della Segnatura at the Vatican.

4) Reformation and other developments (1517)
   - Martin Luther publishes 95 Theses in 1517 which is very critical of the Catholic Church’s practice of selling indulgences, extravagant spending, and other items. Protestant Reformation begins. Protestantism in Northern Europe in ascendancy as a result.
   - Gutenberg Printing Press invented about 1440 which makes dissemination of ideas much faster and more ubiquitous.
   - Martin Luther translates bible into German, making it much more accessible.
   - Catholic Church takes 50 years to respond coherently in the form of a Counter-Reformation, which includes church building.