Friday 11th February 2022

History Homework – The Concordat

What is a Concordat?

A Concordat as an agreement signed between the Catholic church, and another country or countries about something that affects the church and the other countries signing it. There have been several hundred Concordats signed, with the first recorded one being signed in 1098.

Catholicism and Governments

The catholic church claims that “the Catholic church is never bound to one form of government than another”, but that “She does not find any difficult adapting herself”

What this means is, despite not being controlled by any government or country, they are happy to work with and adapt to any country, no matter how the country is run (eg democratically or as a monarchy).

Reichskonkordat

The agreement signed between the Catholic church and Nazi Germany was called the Reichskonkordat. It was signed on 20th July 1933 by Eugenio Pacelli (who later became the next pope) on behalf of Pope Pius XI, as well as Vice Chancellor Franz von Papen on behalf of the German government.

The Rights of the Catholic Church

When the Concordat was signed, Germany agreed that:

1. Catholics can practice their faith in public, and the Catholic church will govern themselves.
2. A representative of the Pope will live in Germany, and an ambassador of the Reich will live in the **Holy See** (where the Pope has power)
3. All bishops must take an oath to honour the Reich Government
4. Catholicism will be taught in schools.
5. Members of the clergy could not join or support political parties
6. Members of the clergy were not required to serve in the military if mandatory military service was re-introduced.