



SESSION 5: ST. IGNATIUS TO ST. POLYCARP – QUESTIONS

1. What was the first feast day established by the Church, and what is it?
2. What trend in the Church gave rise to an emphasis on episcopal authority?
3. What is the significance of our singing the hymn “O Gladsome Light” during vespers?
4. What does ‘Didache’ mean? What are your thoughts on its significance to the early Church?
5. Why did persecution and martyrdom become so common during the reigns of Trajan and Hadrian (98-138), considering that they were focused on expansion of the Roman Empire and not much interested in Christians?
6. These persecutions led Christian leaders to _____ their faith. They were called _____.
7. What is the heresy of Marcionism? What did it ultimately force the Church to do?
8. A very early conflict within the Church that led to an unsuccessful attempt by the church in Rome to dominate was about:
9. Polycarp was a student of _____, a teacher of _____ and a close associate of _____. As Bishop of Smyrna, he spoke and wrote against _____ and _____. Based upon our look at him, what do you believe were his personal characteristics?