

Nicholas V (1447-1455) was a profound humanist and a man of some principles. He was the founder of the Vatican library as we know it and this has come to be a treasure trove of Christian literature.

Sixtus IV (1471-1484) served as a politician chiefly interested in besting the other Italian princes. He had considerable success in this and also in rebuilding Rome. He was responsible for the Sistine chapel (named for him) and sought to make Rome the cultural and humanistic center of the world. Needing a lot of money for these projects he gave further authorization for the sale of indulgences that were plenary in scope.. ..including indulgences for those already deceased. This would become a great source of revenue and one of the major issues at the start of the Reformation.

Alexander VI (1492-1503) was a very competent politician but also a man of no moral values and mostly a builder of family wealth. He involved the Italian states in wars with France and was a member of the Borgia family...the infamous Caesar Borgia being his son. In politics he drew the line of demarcation dividing the new world between Spain and Portugal...an arrangement that did not make friends for him in England, France, et al. He is famed also for his persecution of Savanarola and the excess of of his papal court.

### VIII.3 Troubles

#### The Florentine Schism

Savanarola (1452-1498) was a Dominican monk from Florence who took sharp issue with the excesses of the church and the worldly living of fellow clerics. He reacted strongly against the societal practices in Rome and was elected to public office in 1494 in Florence from which position he sought to reform the city. A great preacher and a dramatic person in general, he drew a good following and soon had things in a virtual revolution. He was opposed by many of the clerics but the masses and the government were with him and for a bit of time he had considerable success in local reform.

Speaking against the Pope, Savanarola was brought into directon confrontation with Alexander VI. He was condemned officially in 1498. He sought to