

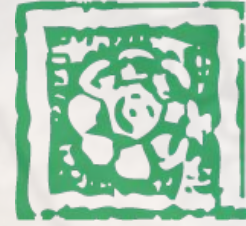
# **CHWNE Module 4 Lesson 3**

**Catherine De Medici**

**AND**

**Her Sons, Francis II & Charles IX**





# Catherine de Medici





# Let's First look at Catherine and Francis II



In **1559**, when **Henry II** died, his son **Francis**, became **King Francis II**.

**Francis II**, was born in **1544** and came to the throne as a sickly 15 year-old.

He **died** at the age of 16 in **1560**.





**Francis II**

**And**

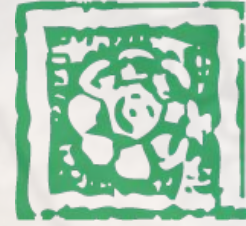
**Mary Queen of Scots**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\\_II\\_of\\_France#/media/File:FrancoisII.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_II_of_France#/media/File:FrancoisII.jpg)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary,\\_Queen\\_of\\_Scots#/media/File:Fran%C3%A7ois\\_Clouet\\_-\\_Mary,\\_Queen\\_of\\_Scots\\_\(1542-87\)\\_-\\_Google\\_Art\\_Project.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary,_Queen_of_Scots#/media/File:Fran%C3%A7ois_Clouet_-_Mary,_Queen_of_Scots_(1542-87)_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg)



# Let's First look at Catherine and Francis II



Francis was married to **Mary Queen of Scots** in **1548** when she was 6 years old.

**After Francis II's death Mary Queen of Scots** returned to Scotland as an eighteen-year-old widow.





# King Charles IX





# Let's look at Charles IX

**When Francis II** died in **1560**, his brother Charles became **King Charles IX** at 9 years old.

The Parlement decreed that he could take the throne in **1563**, when he was **12 years old**.

**Catherine de Medici** ruled as regent from **1560 to 1563**.





**Charles (and Catherine)** inherited a fractious country on the verge of civil war.

This can be traced directly to the extreme measures which his father **Henry II** implemented to eradicate the Protestants.





**Henry II** set the stage for the **French Wars of Religion** as soon as he became king.

For example, in **1547** Henry II created the new judicial chamber for the persecution of the Protestants **known as the Burning Chamber.**





With this legal body, they were almost always condemned to die at the stake.

In **1551 and 1557**, he also proclaimed two edicts (**Châteaubriant and Compiègne**).

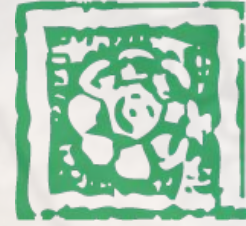
These edicts were extreme measures to eliminate Protestants, and severely restricted any freedoms they could enjoy under Henry II.





When combined with the enthusiasm of the **Guise** brothers and the strict implementation of the terms of the edicts by the Constable of France, **Anne de Montmorency**, Henry left a virtual powder keg of events for Catherine and his sons to manage.





# Catherine de Medici



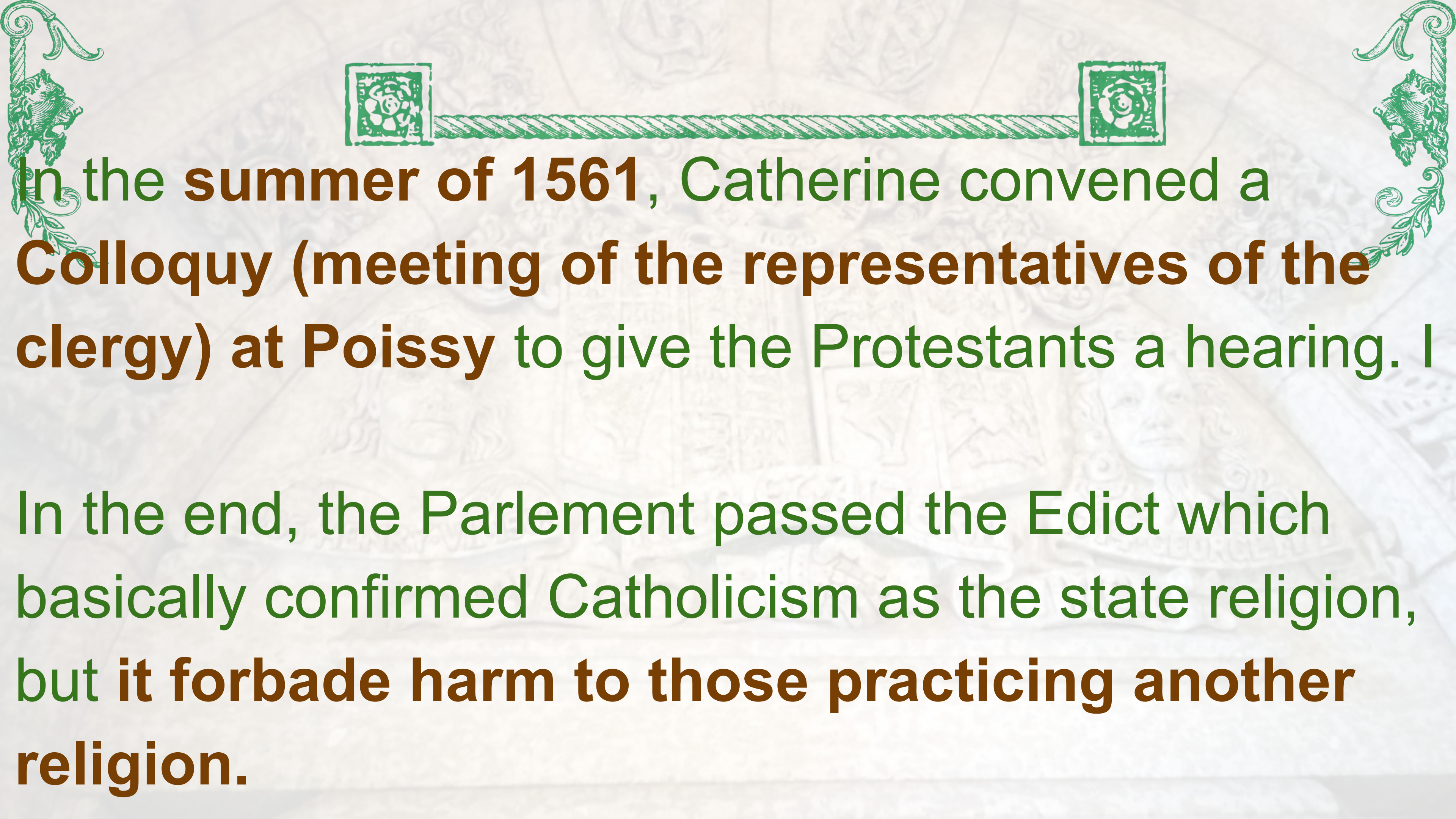




Under Catherine's regency relations between Protestants and Catholics broke down completely.

The **Guise brothers** were so intent on implementing Henry II's edicts posthumously, (**he died in 1559**), that they would not budge on any accommodation of tolerance for the Protestants.





In the **summer of 1561**, Catherine convened a **Colloquy** (meeting of the **representatives of the clergy**) at **Poissy** to give the Protestants a hearing. I

In the end, the Parlement passed the Edict which basically confirmed Catholicism as the state religion, **but it forbade harm to those practicing another religion.**





**In January 1562**, Catherine had given limited tolerance to the French Protestants through the **Edict of St Germain**.

She had hoped that both Calvinism and Catholicism would co-exist peacefully, and that the religious factions in the court would not spill over into a rebellion by the Protestants.





This edict basically gave a little bit of freedom to **worship publicly outside of towns**, and to **worship inside them privately**.

The **Guise** faction had been pressuring Catherine to revoke the **Edict of St Germain**.





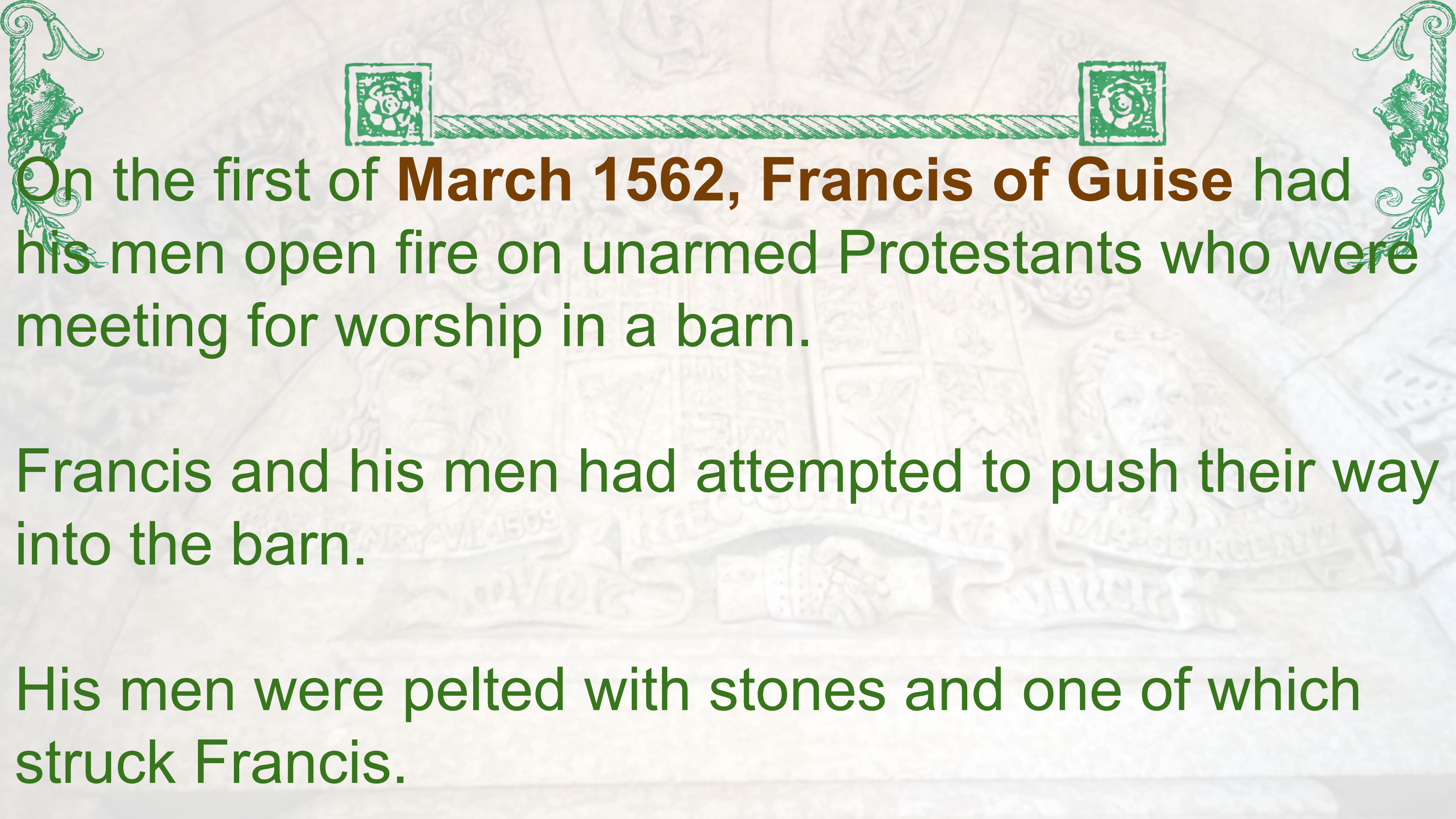
It was during the public worship on a Sunday morning outside the town at **Wassy**, that **The French Wars of Religion** burst into flames with the **Massacre of Wassy (1562)** when Charles was 11 years old.



# Francis of Guise







On the first of **March 1562, Francis of Guise** had his men open fire on unarmed Protestants who were meeting for worship in a barn.

Francis and his men had attempted to push their way into the barn.

His men were pelted with stones and one of which struck Francis.





In anger, he set the barn on fire, killing 63 Protestants and wounding 100.

Open war erupted between both sides.





The **Protestant Prince of Condé (Charles de Bourbon)**, led Protestants in protecting Protestant churches.

They also seized towns and put garrisons in strategic cities along the **Loire River**. One of the cities seized was **Orleans**.

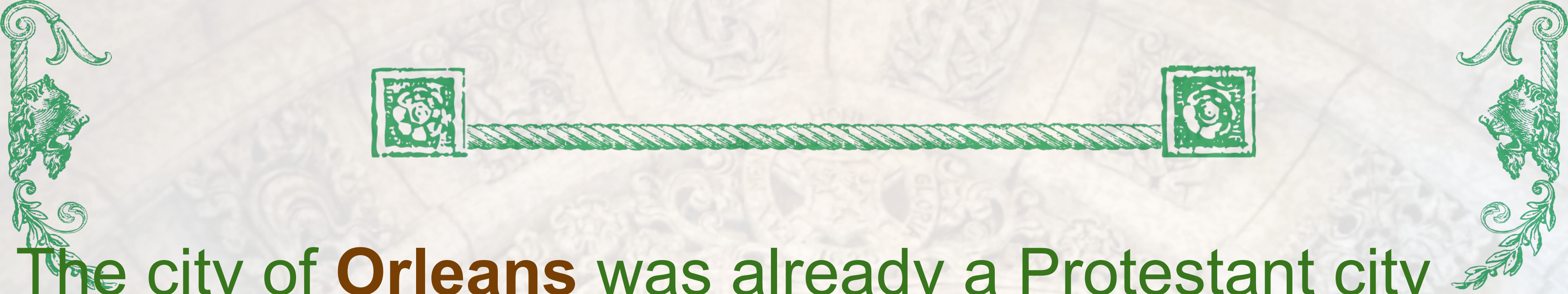




# Map of France showing Orleans and the Loire River







The city of **Orleans** was already a Protestant city where important positions in the civil government were held by Protestants.

In **April 1562**, the Catholic clergy was expelled, relics and statues were removed and destroyed, and only Reformed services were tolerated.

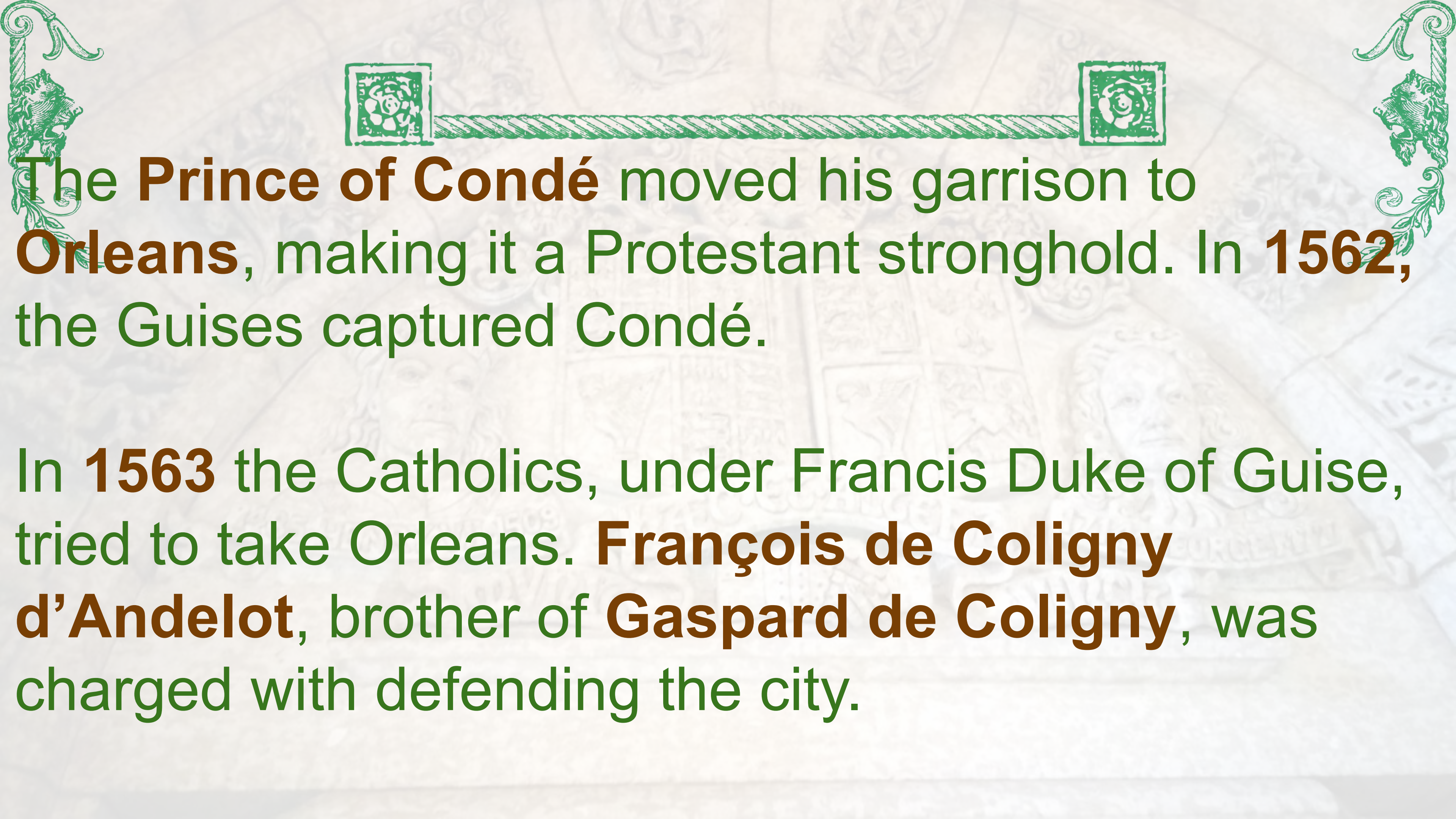




It is said that the Protestants were already preparing for war. **The Massacre of Wassy** was just the fuse that lit the powder keg.

Protestants were able to claim that the **Edict of St Germain**, proclaimed in **January of 1562**, had been broken.






The **Prince of Condé** moved his garrison to **Orleans**, making it a Protestant stronghold. In **1562**, the Guises captured Condé.

In **1563** the Catholics, under Francis Duke of Guise, tried to take Orleans. **François de Coligny d'Andelot**, brother of **Gaspard de Coligny**, was charged with defending the city.





On **February 18 1563**, **Francis of Guise** was killed by **Poltrot de Mere** (a ‘**convicted Protestant**’), in the course of the conflict. This was regarded as an assassination.

Catholics claimed that the orders were given by **Admiral Gaspard de Coligny**. Francis’ death triggered more unrest and Protestants held out in Orleans.





With pressure from the Guises, the **Edict of St Germain of 1562** was revoked, sparking more wars.

**In 1563**, Catherine negotiated a truce called the **Edict of Amboise / Edict of Pacification**.





This edict allowed **freedom of worship in the private homes of the nobles, and in one predetermined town in specific areas.**

The Protestant members of the Parlement of Paris had been previously expelled.





The now **all-Catholic Parlement** in early 1563 refused to sign the edict until Charles declared his majority in 1563, when he became old enough to govern.





When Charles eventually **DID** announce his majority in the summer of **1563**, he called a special Parlement to sign the edict himself (*lit de justice*) where he signed a more comprehensive version of the **Edict of Amboise**.





**In 1564 and 1566**, Catherine accompanied Charles on a tour of the country which was designed to signal the authority of the crown.

**Jeanne d'Albret** met with Catherine numerous times during those years to negotiate favourable Protestant conditions.





**In 1567/1568, the Second War of Religion** was triggered with an attempt by Protestants to abduct **Charles IX.**

This failed attempt was led by **Louis de Bourbon.**

With the Protestants as aggressors this time, an attack was launched on 24 Catholic monks and priests in Meaux.





**The Edict of Longjumeau reiterated the Edict of Amboise giving religious freedoms to Protestants. This treaty ended in August 1568**

As a response to the edict, throughout the **summer of 1568**, the Guise brothers encouraged the setting up of **Leagues** to protect Catholicism.





Protestants in the court like de Coligny and Conde, fled the court fearing for their lives.

By the end of the summer, the **Edict of Longjumeau** was rescinded, with the Protestants not having any religious freedoms whatsoever.







# Henry Duc d'Anjou



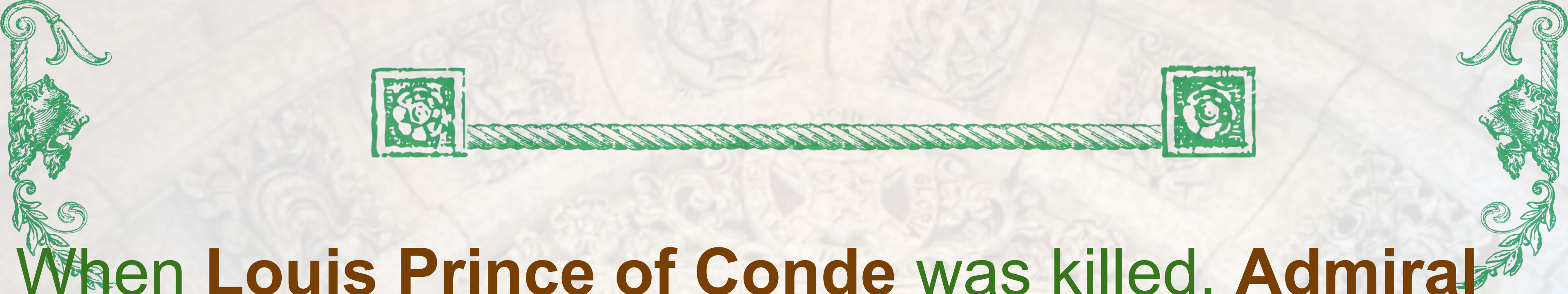




In the **Third War of Religion** from **1568 -1570** which broke France's coffers, **Jeanne D'Albret** led the protestant forces from within the walls of La Rochelle.

Protestants got military and other support from Germany and England, while the Catholics, led by **Henry Duc d'Anjou**, got military support from Spain and the Papal states.





When **Louis Prince of Conde** was killed, **Admiral Gaspard de Coligny** took charge on behalf of Louis' son, **Henry Duke of Conde** and **Henry of Navarre**, who became the de facto leaders of the Protestant army at **15 and 16 years old** respectively.





# Admiral Gaspard de Coligny



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaspard\\_II\\_de\\_Coligny#/media/File:Gaspard\\_de\\_Coligny\\_1517\\_1572.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaspard_II_de_Coligny#/media/File:Gaspard_de_Coligny_1517_1572.jpg)





As the debt of war rose, **Charles IX** wanted to find a peaceful solution which led to another **Peace of St Germain en Laye (1570)**, allowing some concessions to the Protestants





**In 1572** after many failed peace attempts, it is said that Charles ordered his sister, **Marguerite de Medici, to marry Henry of Navarre.**

His Catholic nobles and councillors responded with hostility at his perceived 'appeasement' of the Protestants'.





**Marguerite of Valois**

**Henry III of Navarre**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret\\_of\\_Valois#/media/File:Reine\\_Marguerite\\_de\\_Valois.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_of_Valois#/media/File:Reine_Marguerite_de_Valois.jpg)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_IV\\_of\\_France#/media/File:Augustins\\_-\\_Henri\\_IV,\\_roi\\_de\\_France\\_et\\_de\\_Navarre\\_-\\_Jacques\\_Boulb%C3%A8ne.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_IV_of_France#/media/File:Augustins_-_Henri_IV,_roi_de_France_et_de_Navarre_-_Jacques_Boulb%C3%A8ne.jpg)





Catholic nobles did not attend the wedding of **Henry III of Navarre and Marguerite of Valois**, daughter of Catherine de Medici.

Protestant nobility, soldiers and other attendees to the wedding had stayed around in Paris to celebrate the **Feast of St. Bartholomew**.

**Catherine, Charles IX and the Catholic nobles** conspired to eradicate the Protestants.





# **The St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, and the first Siege of La Rochelle (1573)**

With Catherine's approval, Charles allowed the killing of the Protestants who had gathered in Paris for the wedding of Henry of Navarre with Marguerite of Valois.

**(St Bartholomew's Day Massacre) in August of 1572.**

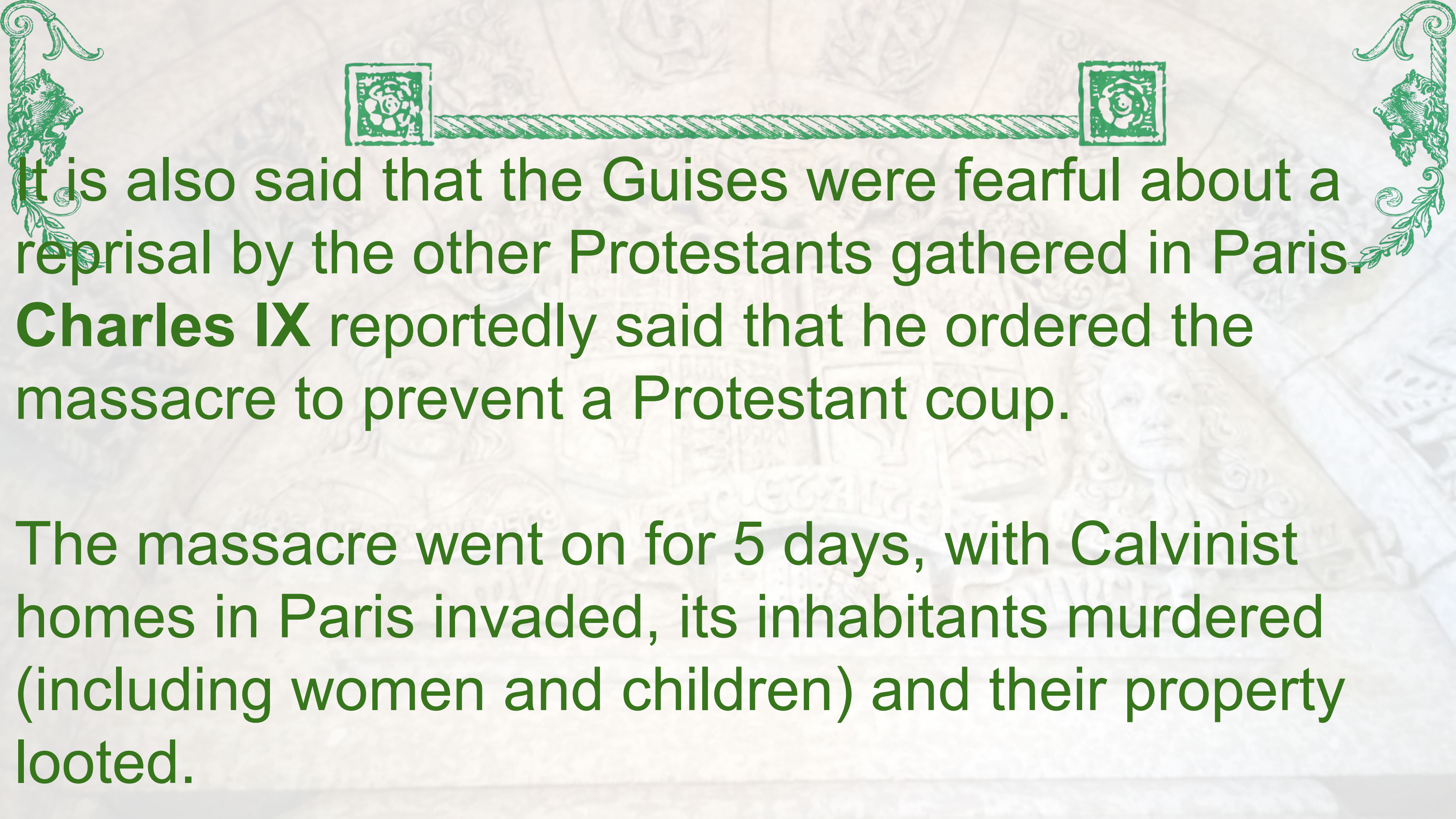




The killing continued until **October of 1572**, and Catherine wholeheartedly supported their persecution.

It is said that Catherine was concerned about the power wielded by **Admiral Gaspard de Coligny**. He was killed first, and his body mutilated, suspended on a gallows and then burnt by the Paris crowd.





It is also said that the Guises were fearful about a reprisal by the other Protestants gathered in Paris. **Charles IX** reportedly said that he ordered the massacre to prevent a Protestant coup.

The massacre went on for 5 days, with Calvinist homes in Paris invaded, its inhabitants murdered (including women and children) and their property looted.





Charles' siege on the Protestant stronghold of **La Rochelle (1572 -1573)** failed at that time.

He thought that he could attack while the Protestants were in disarray.





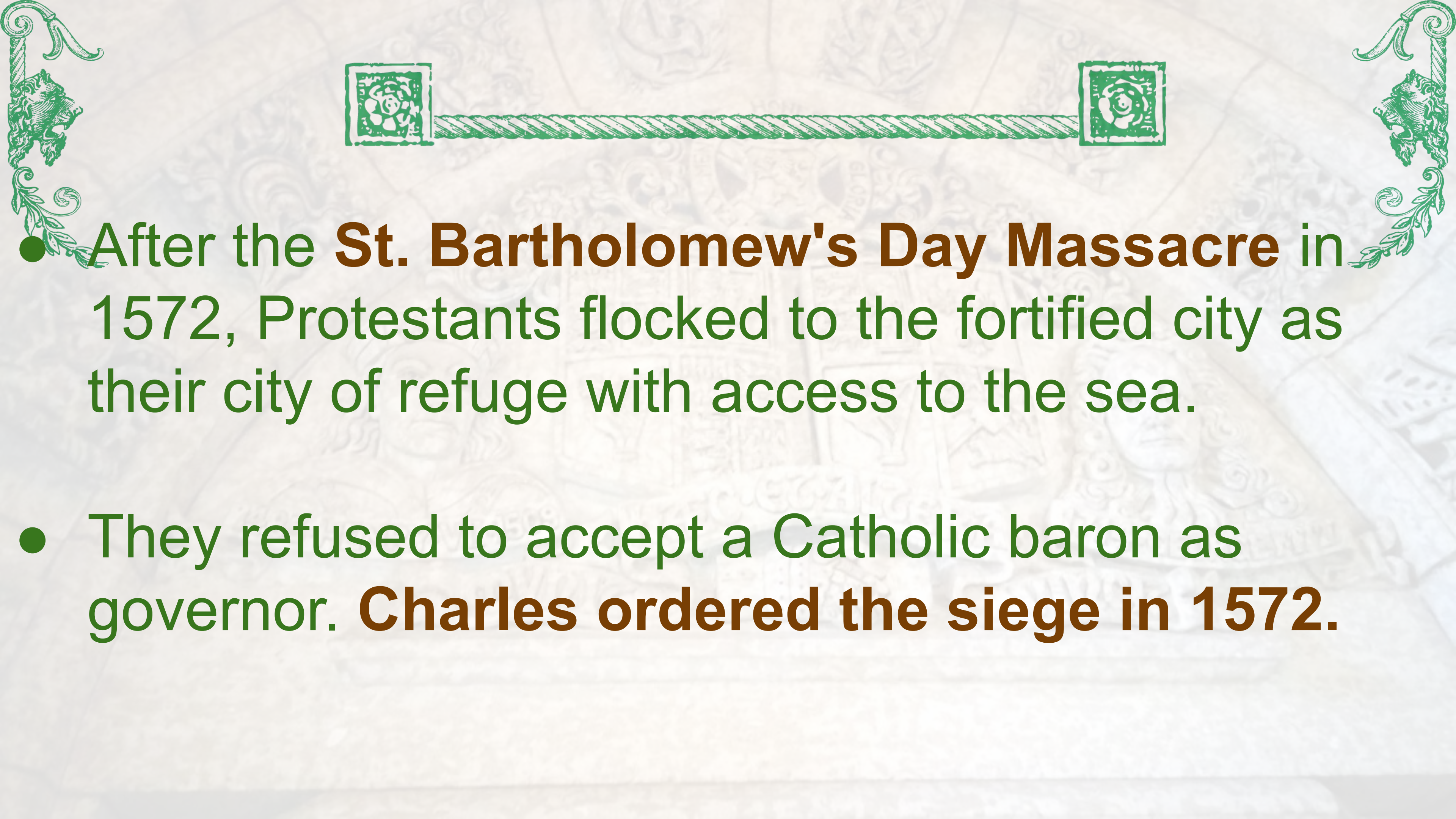
# The Siege of La Rochelle (1572-1573)

- Since **1568**, **La Rochelle (20,000)** was a stronghold of the French Protestants.
- It was an important port, had administrative autonomy (no bishop, parlement or seigneurs), and was Calvinist in outlook.









- After the **St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre** in 1572, Protestants flocked to the fortified city as their city of refuge with access to the sea.
- They refused to accept a Catholic baron as governor. **Charles ordered the siege in 1572.**





# Henry Duc d'Anjou







- Military assault by Catholic troops were led by **Henry Duke of Anjou** (future **Henry III of France**), in 1573.

**Henry Duke of Anjou** was elected as **King of Poland** where there was a sizeable Protestant minority. He left to claim his country.





- Before he left, he negotiated the **Peace of La Rochelle** in June of 1573.
- **Charles IX** signed the **Edict of Boulogne**, allowing La Rochelle to be **one of three cities** where the Protestant faith was allowed under strict conditions.





# Edict of Boulogne (1573)

Withdrew many of the rights previously given to Protestants and limited their freedoms. These freedoms included:

- Amnesty for past wrongs committed
- Freedom of belief (in 'justification by faith alone')





- Freedom to worship ONLY in **La Rochelle, Mauntaban and Nimes** and ONLY in your own house.
- Worship anywhere else outside those 3 cities, was strictly prohibited.





- Protestant nobles with judicial rights could perform marriages and baptisms in the presence of an assembly, **BUT that assembly could ONLY be made up of family members and 10 people from outside the family.**





**Charles IX died of TB in 1574 at age 23**  
(1553-1574), after actually ruling for seven years.

**Henry Duke of Anjou became Henry III of France.**  
The Catholic League pressured Henry III to  
re-criminalize Protestantism





**Sir Francis Walsingham, the British Ambassador to France** witnessed the massacre and saved many Protestants by sheltering them in his house.

He described it as the ‘most horrible spectacle I have ever seen’.



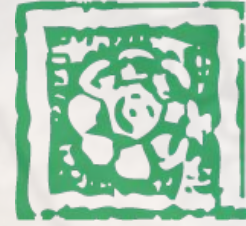


# Sir Francis Walsingham

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3a/Sir\\_Francis\\_Walsingham\\_by\\_John\\_De\\_Critz\\_the\\_Elder.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3a/Sir_Francis_Walsingham_by_John_De_Critz_the_Elder.jpg)







# Charles de Bourbon



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