As the Reformation continued, hundreds of new Protestant **sects** arose, influencing Protestant thinking in many countries. In England, the break with the Catholic Church came from **Henry VIII**. He and his wife, Catherine of Aragon, had one child, **Mary Tudor**. Henry wanted to divorce Catherine and marry another woman whom he hoped would bear him a male heir. However, the pope refused to annul Henry’s marriage. Furious, Henry had Parliament pass laws to take the English church from the pope’s control. Henry appointed **Thomas Cranmer** archbishop of the new English church. Cranmer annulled the king’s marriage. In 1534, Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy, making Henry the head of the Church of England.

Many Catholics, including Sir Thomas More, refused to accept the Act of Supremacy and were executed. The Catholic Church later **canonized** More for his stand against Henry. When Henry died in 1547, his son Edward VI inherited the throne. Under Edward, Parliament passed laws bringing more Protestant reforms to England. When Edward died, his half-sister Mary Tudor, a Catholic, became queen. She wanted to return England to the Catholic faith. Hundreds of English Protestants were burned at the stake.

On Mary’s death in 1558, the throne passed to her half-sister, **Elizabeth**. She made reforms that became known as the Elizabethan settlement—a **compromise** between Protestant and Catholic practices. Elizabeth restored unity to England; she kept many Catholic traditions, but made England a Protestant nation.

As the Protestant Reformation swept northern Europe, the Catholic Church began a Counter Reformation. The pope’s **Council of Trent** reaffirmed Catholic beliefs that Protestants had challenged. **Ignatius of Loyola** founded a new religious order, the Jesuits. They followed a rigorous program of strict discipline, thorough religious training, and absolute obedience to the Church. **Teresa of Avila** established her own order of nuns dedicated to prayer and meditation. Both Catholics and Protestants fostered intolerance, and persecuted radical sects. Innocent people were executed for witchcraft. In Venice, Jews were pressured to convert and forced to live in a separate part of the city called the **ghetto**.

**Review Questions**

1. What caused Henry VIII to break with the Catholic Church and establish the Church of England?

2. How did many Catholics in England respond to the Act of Supremacy?