

Early Church Fathers

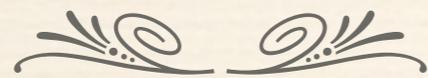


Chapters 20-26

Geography



Chapter 20



Ambrose of Milan
The Jonah of the West



St Ambrose - Cathedral of Milan

Background

- ❖ **Gaul** - Governor of the junior emperor capital of the West. St Athanasius was there on one of his exiles.
- ❖ **Milan** - Governor of Northern Italy, housed in Milan where the Imperial court of the senior emperor resided. Well respected.
- ❖ **Arian Controversy** - Still a major source of conflict.
 - ❖ **Bishop** - People acclaimed him Bishop. He was an unbaptized believer. Canon law forbid ordaining the newly baptized. Quickly baptized and ordained Dec 7, 374. Age 35.

Daily Life

- ❖ **Early Fathers** - St Ambrose studied the Early Fathers. Read St Athanasius, Origen and St Basil
- ❖ Open door policy - For Anyone
- ❖ *St Augustine became one of his students*
- ❖ Life long program of eradicating Arianism



St Ambrose

- ❖ Remembered for **choir-style poetic songs** that preached. (not unlike nursery rhymes)
- ❖ Paid **ransoms** to redeem people from barbarians, emptying first his wealth, then even with church gold including sacred vessels.
- ❖ Two major interactions with Emperor **Theodosius the Great**.

Emperor Theodosius



- ❖ **Champion of Nicene orthodoxy** - fought against all forms of paganism and Arianism.
- ❖ **Interactions with Ambrose:**
 - ❖ **Remained in the Sanctuary** - *thanked bishop for explanation*
 - ❖ **Repentance for sin of killing 7000 at Thessalonica.** *Ambrose private letter to urge public repentance. Submitted to Sackcloth outside church, begged intercession of people for months!*

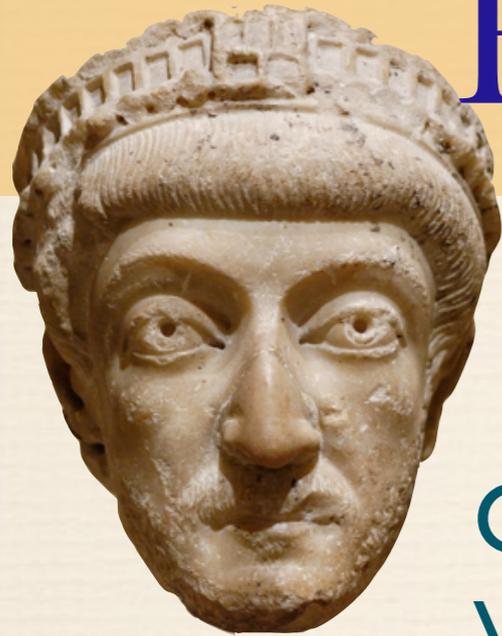
Emperor Theodosius



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- ❖ **Interactions with Ambrose:**

Encyclopedia Britannica reports that Theodosius attempted to rescind the order to kill - but it was received too late.

- ❖ **Repentance for sin of killing 7000 at Thessalonica.** *Ambrose private letter to urge public repentance. Submitted to Sackcloth outside church, begged intercession of people for months!*

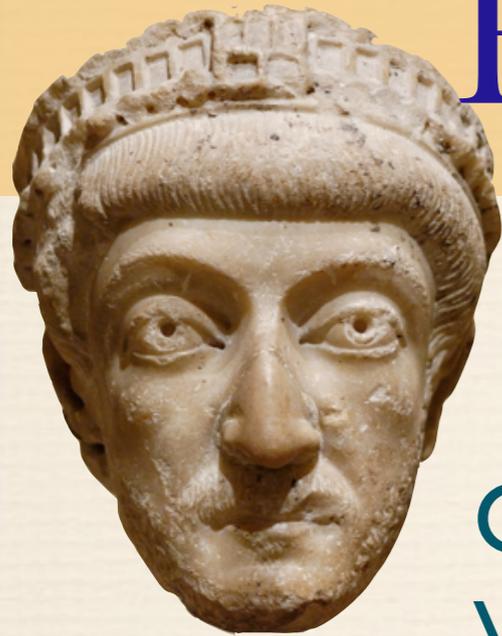


Emperor Theodosius

On February 27, 380, together with Gratian and Valentinian II,

Theodosius issued the decree "*Cunctos populos*", the so-called "Edict of Thessalonica", recorded in the *Codex Theodosianus* xvi.1.2.

This declared the Nicene Trinitarian Christianity to be the only legitimate imperial religion and the only one entitled to call itself Catholic.



Emperor Theodosius

On February 27, 380, together with Gratian and Valentinian II

And so in 380AD Christianity (Orthodox Catholic faith) finally became the official religion of the Roman Empire

This declared the Nicene Trinitarian Christianity to be the only legitimate imperial religion and the only one entitled to call itself Catholic.

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Theodosius

“He stripped himself of every side of royalty and bewailed his sin openly in the church. He, an emperor, was not ashamed to do public penance which lesser individuals shrink from, and to the end of his life he never ceased to grieve for his error.”

St Ambrose on Nov 8, 395 AD at the Emperor's Requiem Mass.

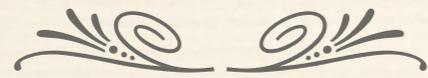


Remains in Istanbul
(Constantinople)

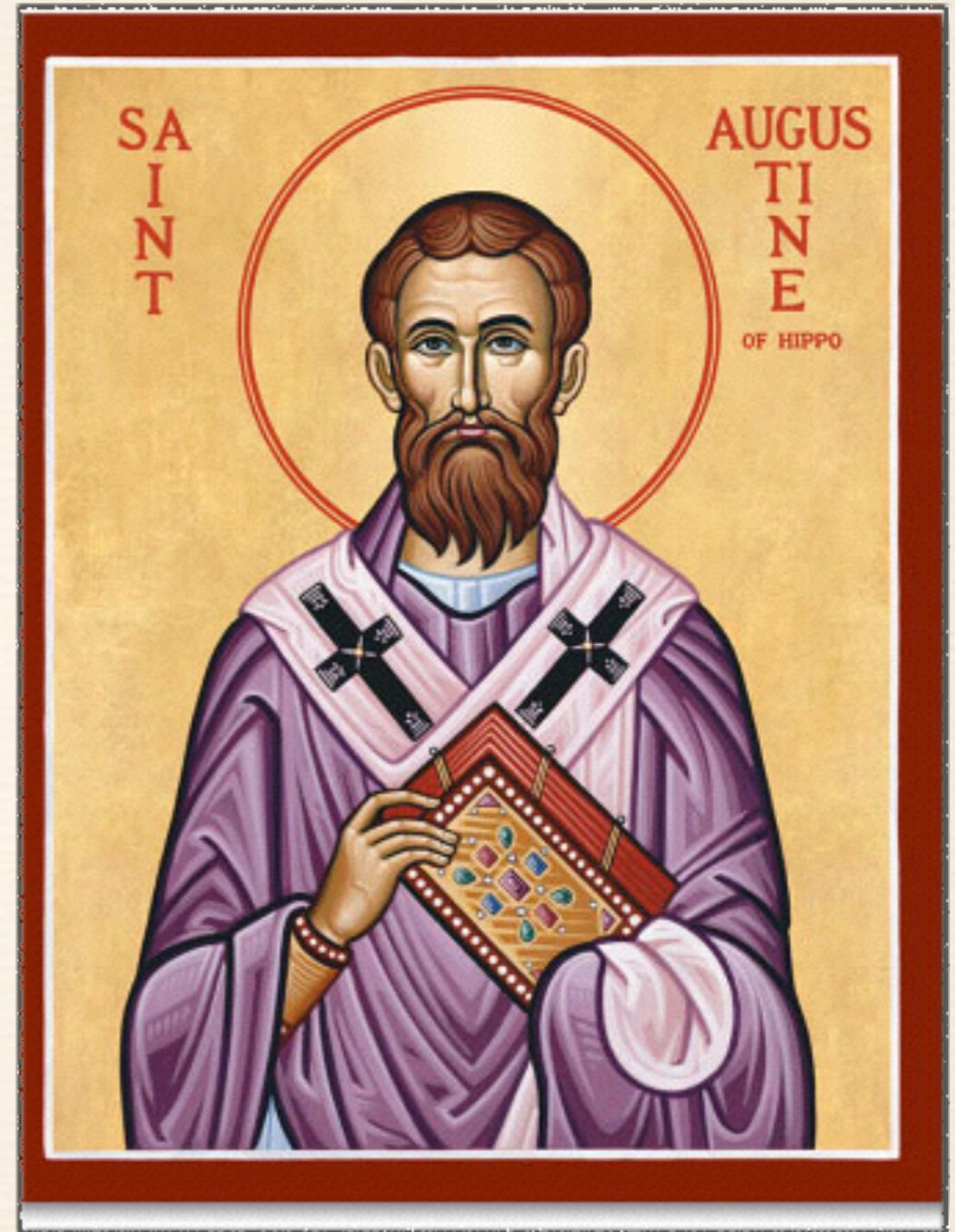
St Ambrose Legacy

- ❖ **St Augustine** - If the measure of a great teacher is his star pupil, then Ambrose is Great - for he was the mentor and godfather (at Augustine's baptism) of perhaps one of the greatest Doctor's of the Church.
- ❖ **Inspired Theodosius** - at the right time to become the great Catholic Emperor, which resulted in the **final defeat of Arianism.**

Chapter 21



*Augustine
and
Amazing Grace*



Augustine of Hippo

- ❖ Son of a Pagan father and a **daily communicant mother, St Monica**, at a time when daily communion was not common.
 - ❖ **Born in modern day Algeria.**
 - ❖ *Pre-Conversion he is most remembered for his struggles with chastity.*

Augustine of Hippo

- ❖ Cicero's book *Hortensius*, persuaded Augustine to abandon study of law and pursue Truth.
- ❖ His mother, Monica, prayed he would find God.
- ❖ **Manichaen heresy** initially attractive - **gnostic** overlay allowed him to not feel ashamed of the evil (he saw) in his fleshly desires.
- ❖ **Disillusioned** with Manichaen Theology, he sought a new life in **Rome.**

Augustine of Hippo

- ❖ Governor of Rome, suggested he be appointed an **orator** for the Imperial Court in **Milan**.
- ❖ It was this appointment that caused him to meet **Ambrose**, *through the urging of Monica*.
- ❖ Augustine was impressed with **style and content of Ambrose's homilies**.
- ❖ Augustine became immersed in the study of **Scriptures, Athanasius, story of Antony**

Augustine of Hippo

- ❖ **Romans 13:13-14** gave him courage to change.
- ❖ Easter Vigil 387 AD - **Baptized** by Ambrose
- ❖ In 391 became a **priest** in Hippo. In 393 attended **synod of Hippo**. In 395 became **coadjutor bishop** of Hippo. In 397 attended **synod of Carthage** as a bishop. In 397 he also became the sole **bishop** of Hippo
- ❖ **Died** August 28, 430 AD *as Vandals entered Hippo.*

Heresies

- ❖ Two heresies occupied St Augustine's time: Donatism and Pelagianism.
- ❖ **Donatism** was rigorist, a continuing presence since the times of Tertulian and later the Diocletian Persecution of the early 300s
- ❖ No readmission for apostates. Invalidity of Sacraments administered by Apostates.

Sacraments

- ❖ The church is Holy because it is the Body of Christ, and the Sacraments nourish that body.
- ❖ On what do the sacraments depend on for their authenticity?
 - ❖ *Ex opere operato* - intrinsic efficacy independent on the holiness of the priest or bishop, whose charism is permanent.

Can a fallen priest become a **Satanist**
and confect a **valid Eucharist**?

Assume the **priest's faculties** have
been **removed by the Bishop**.



Pelagianism

- ❖ One can, with one's own effort, become holy and perfect - and therefore attain salvation. Jesus has paid the price, now its up to us to do our part. It is simply an act of the will.
- ❖ That is why God gave us a free will, so we can choose right and wrong. The Lord would not command us to be perfect, unless we could be perfect.” (Mt 5:48)

Pelagianism

- ❖ One can, with one's own strength, be good and perfect - and then Jesus has paid the price for our part. It is simply
- ❖ That is why God gave us a free will, so we can choose right and wrong. The Lord would not command us to be perfect, unless we could be perfect." (Mt 5:48)



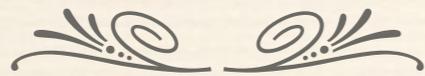
Salvation by Grace

- ❖ Augustine reflected: Why does the Apostolic Tradition always baptize infants?
- ❖ We are born in need of salvation, Why?
 - ❖ **Fallen Nature** - Original Sin - *expressed by Augustine even as an infant in his Confessions.*
 - ❖ **Concupiscence** - downward tug that impairs our freedom

Salvation by Grace

- ❖ The offset for concupiscence is **Grace**.
- ❖ Grace is a free gift from God.
- ❖ **Baptism does not wipe out concupiscence** it allows us to receive the grace which permits us to become holy through our life journey.
- ❖ Grace makes our free will able to embrace Christ by faith. (Doctor of Grace)

Chapter 22



John Chrysostom
Preacher with the Golden Tongue



John Chrysostom

- ❖ From Antioch
- ❖ **Hermit** beginning though very intelligent.
- ❖ **Weak**, during recuperation was noticed by a bishop and became a deacon
- ❖ Another **Theodosius** concern, when Antioch rebelled due to high taxes. *John preached powerful sermons and people repented*

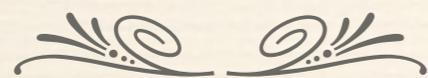
John Chrysostom

- ❖ Often preached twice a day. Many homilies survive.
“Fear and Trembling when approaching Eucharist.”
Doctor of the Eucharist
- ❖ Ardent preacher on marital fidelity, finest commentary on Gospel of Matthew and Letter to the Romans.
- ❖ in 398 AD consecrated Patriarch of Constantinople
 - ❖ Criticized laxity & lavishness of the clergy and empress Eudoxia

John Chrysostom

- ❖ Died on the way to exile in the Black Sea.
- ❖ 30 years later his remains brought back and deposited next to the remains of Sts Andrew, Luke and Timothy, and Emperor Constantine.
- ❖ The predominate liturgy of the Eastern Churches (Orthodox and Uniate) today remains the liturgy of St John Chrysostom.

Chapter 23



Jerome and the Bible





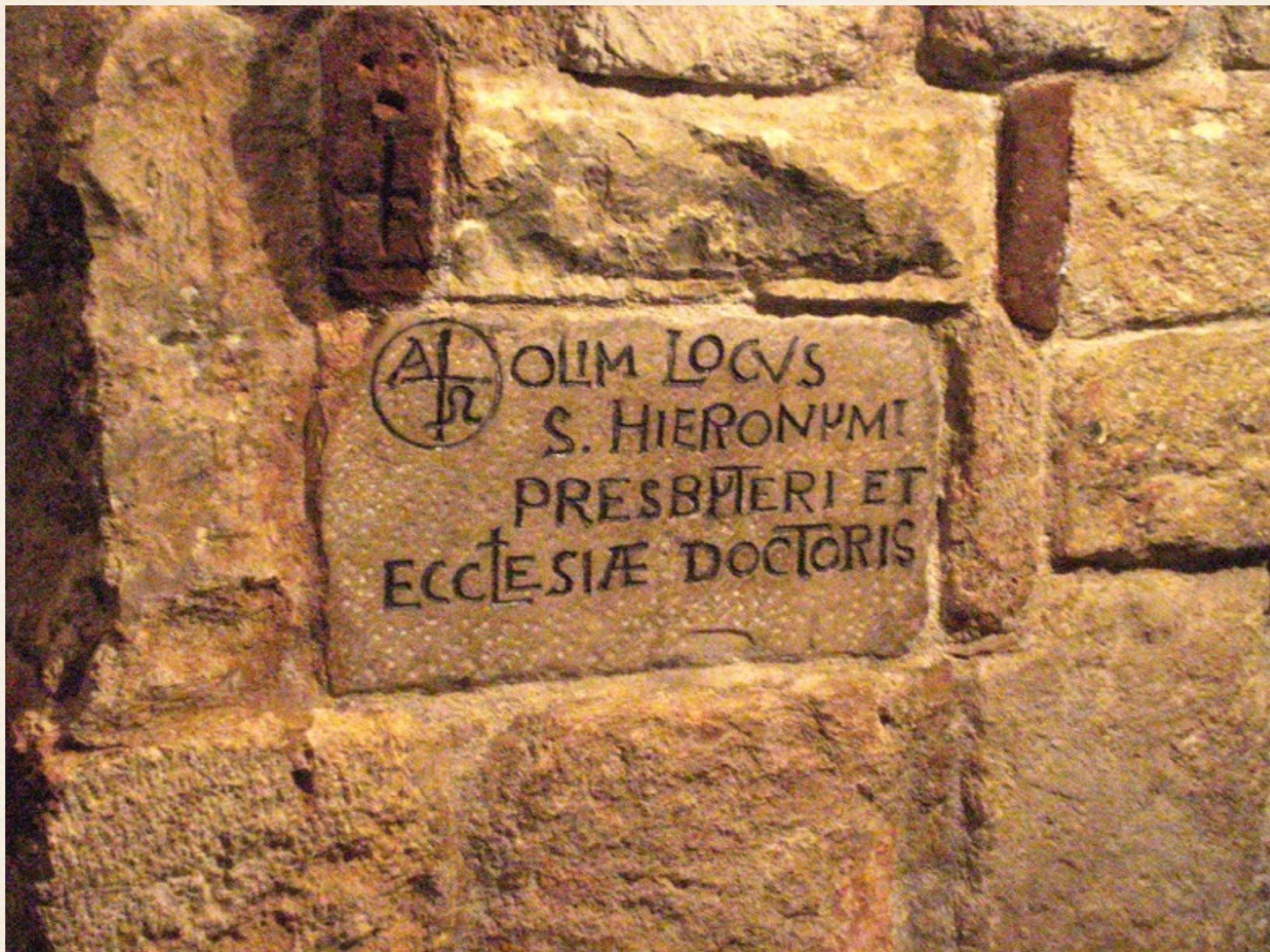
STATUE OF ST JEROME
IN THE COURTYARD
OF THE
BASILICA OF THE
NATIVITY
OF OUR LORD



**STAIRS USED BY
ST JEROME TO
ENTER THE
ROOM WHERE
HE TRANSLATED
THE VULGATE**



MASS AT THE CHAPEL - FR. KRIS SORENSON



OLIM LOCUS - OLD PLACE



FIRST BURIAL PLACE - now Santa Maria Maggiore

Background

- ❖ Mastered **Latin**, student of **Greek**, and fluent in **Hebrew**.
- ❖ Translated the Greek bible into the **Vulgate** using Hebrew sources as well as the Septuagint. Completed in 405AD
- ❖ **Chairo Kecharitomene** - Ave Gratia Plena.
- ❖ **Secretary to Pope Damasus I**, Synod of Rome 382 AD - confirming the Athanasian canon.

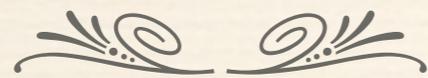
St Jerome

- ❖ “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ”
beginning of commentary on Isaiah.
- ❖ **Against Helvidius** - support of the perpetual virginity of the **BVM**. Debunked Helvidius theory that James, Joses, Simon and Jude (called brothers of Christ) were sons of the BVM.
 - ❖ *They are actually sons of Mary of Cleopas*

St Jerome

- ❖ Collaborated with St Augustine to defeat **Pelagianism**, when Pelagius moved from Rome to Palestine, after the sack of Rome.
- ❖ **Legacy** - **Vulgate** - language of the people, allowed preservation of the Scriptures, and the continuation of theological thought during the cultural darkness of the Dark Ages.
- ❖ Incalculable gift to mankind.

Chapter 24



Leo the Great



Leo the Great

- ❖ 440 AD became Pope, while still a deacon.
- ❖ Left behind many letters and many sermons, a reversal of the prior 44 popes that had left no sermons.
- ❖ “Christian remember your dignity”
- ❖ “Christians by virtue of Baptism, are kings and priests.”

Nestorian Heresy

- ❖ Began in 428AD - by acquiescence of Constantinople Patriarch Nestorius.
- ❖ **Mary - not mother of God (Theotokos)**
- ❖ **Mary - mother only of the Christ (Christokos)**
 - ❖ schizophrenic Jesus.
Two persons with two natures
- ❖ From 3rd century (200s) Theotokos - used by Origen.
(*Lex Orandi, Lex credendi* - Hippolytus)

Nestorian Heresy

- ❖ Was this an attack on who the BVM was or who Jesus was?
- ❖ Resolved at **Council of Ephesus in 431 AD**
 - ❖ Significance of *location*?
 - ❖ Nicaea affirmed. Intent of Nicaea.
 - ❖ Pelagian Heresy also repudiated at Ephesus.

Monophysitism Heresy

- ❖ AKA Eutychianism (**Eutyches** - taught Jesus only had one nature and that his body was not consubstantial with ours)
One person and one nature.
- ❖ Hijacked council 449 AD called Second Council of Ephesus - *Tome of Leo* not permitted to be read at council

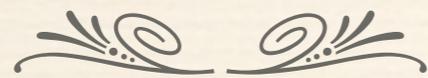
Monophysitism Heresy

- ❖ The **Council of Chalcedon (451 AD)** repudiated the Eutychian doctrine of monophysitism;
 - ❖ adopted the *Chalcedonian Creed*, which described the **hypostatic union** of the two natures of Christ, human and divine;
 - ❖ The *Tome of Leo* (bottom p. 271) Lowliness taken up by majesty ... a nature that could suffer.
 - ❖ “Peter has spoken”
- ❖ 1 person with 2 natures. True God and True Man

Leo the Great's Legacy

- ❖ Leo remembered for his **leadership**. Perhaps its most famous manifestation in preventing through negotiations, **Attila and his Huns** from sacking Rome in 452 AD
- ❖ Leo is remembered for his **prolific sermons and letters**.
- ❖ He showed a **strong Papacy**, in a secular vacuum, was not only possible - but could be exercised **consistently with the dignity of the governed**.

Chapter 25



Gregory the Great



Gregory the Great

- ❖ Followed Leo by 150 years in 590 AD.
- ❖ Began clerical service as **one of the 7 archdeacons of Rome**
- ❖ **Castel Sant'Angelo** - Tiber flood procession abated by the appearance of Saint Michael the Archangel. (Mausoleum of Hadrian).
- ❖ People proclaimed Gregory the new pope after the death of Pope Pelagius II.





Gregory the Great

- ❖ Rome in ruins. Watchman over a mess.
- ❖ *Book of Pastoral Care* - on the calling of a bishop
- ❖ Believed in **Preaching** as the greatest call of a pastor. It was his number 1 priority
- ❖ Absorbed in task of explaining the Scriptures, expounded on the **senses of Scripture: Literal, Allegorical and Moral. (CCC 109-118)**

Gregory the Great

- ❖ **Pastoral care of Rome** - feed the poor, free captives, rebuild cities and their defenses.
- ❖ **Gave away all he had** and all the church had.
- ❖ With **LEO** and **GREGORY** the beginning of the growth of the temporal power of the Pope became necessary and would last through the Middle Ages.

Monasticism

- ❖ **Inspired by St Benedict**, perhaps the undisputed father of Monastic life, Gregory wrote *Dialogues*, the stories of mystics and saints - told in a proficient storytelling genre.
- ❖ This awakened, amidst the misery of the times, a new interest in the life of Antony and **monastic life**, and built on the work of St Benedict.
- ❖ **Monasticism would preserve Christianity.**

Legacy

- ❖ St Gregory also believed that liturgy was enriched by music. Strengthened the *Schola Cantorum* - developing a new chant tradition that came to be known as **Gregorian chant**.
- ❖ Also dispatched Augustine (of Canterbury) to **England**, which resulted in the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity.

Close of the Age

- ❖ *With St Gregory we see the close of the age of the Fathers.*
- ❖ The **Feudal age** would soon be the new norm for a society
- ❖ The age of the Holy Roman empire would begin when Leo III, crowned Charlemagne in St Peters on Dec 25, 800.

Chapter 26

Voices in the Voices



CONGRATULATIONS

AND

BEST WISHES

HOLY DEACONS

AND

HOLY WIVES

Early Church Fathers



Chapters 20-26