

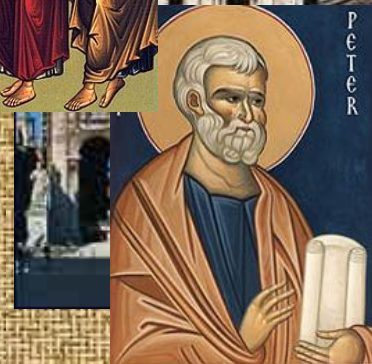
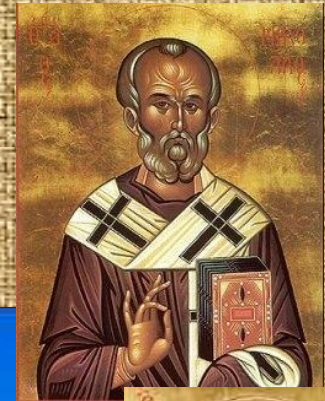
DIVINE REVELATION

“By Word of Mouth”

(2 Thessalonians 2:15):

Handing On

Part III d:
The Doctors of the Church



Doctors of the Church

Catholic Christians believe that the promise of the Spirit of Truth to guide believers in truth is found in the constant faith of the Church as preserved in the writings of the Doctors of the Church also, equally “faithful people.”

The Doctors of the Church are **eminent Christian teachers** who are proclaimed to be worthy of the title.

The Church recognized these faithful people and teachers for their contribution to the belief and understanding of the faith.

Doctors of the Church must be **canonized a saint, known for their learning**, and must be **proclaimed such by either the Bishop of Rome or an ecumenical council**.

Ephrem The Syrian, St.

Personal

Deacon, monk

Noted for his defense of the Church, the mysteries of Our Lord and the honor of the Virgin Mary.

Named in 1920 by Benedict XV

Place and dates

306?-373

Writings

Wrote exegetical works and hymns

Athanasius, St.

Personal

Eastern theologian

Named in 1568 by Pius V

Place and dates

293-373

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list



Cyril of Jerusalem, St.

Personal

Eastern theologian

Named in 1882 by Leo XIII

Place and dates

315?-387?

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list

Basil, St. (the Great)

Personal

Eastern theologian

Named in 1568 by Pius V

Place and dates

329?-379

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list



Gregory of Nazianzus, St.

Personal

Eastern theologian

Named in 1568 by Pius V

Place and dates

329?-389

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list

Ambrose, St.

Personal

Western theologian

Named in 1298 by Bonaface VIII

Place and dates

340?-397

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list



Jerome, St.

Personal

Western theologian

Named in 1298 by Bonaface VIII

Place and dates

345?-419

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list

John Chrysostom, St.

Personal

Eastern theologian

Named in 1568 by Pius V

Place and dates

349?-407

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list



Hilary of Poitiers, St.

Personal

Pagan, convert in 350

Bishop of Poitiers, 353

Defended the decrees of the Council of Nicaea

Named in 1851 by Pius IX

Place and dates

315?-368?

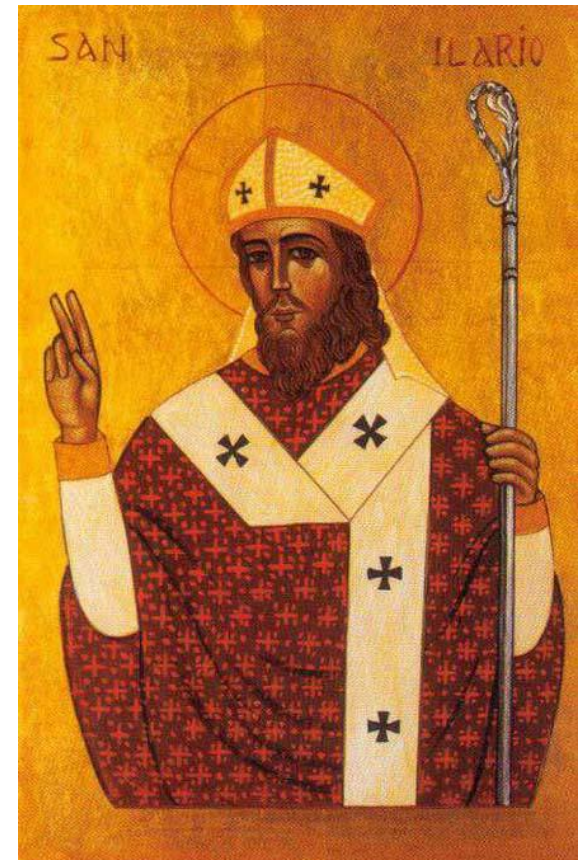
Writings

De Trinitate: against the Arians

De Synodis

Commentary of the Psalms

Commentary of Matthew's Gospel



Augustine, St.

Personal

Western theologian

Named in 1298 by Boniface VIII

Place and dates

354-430

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list

Cyril of Alexandria, St.

Personal

Named in 1882 by Leo XIII

Place and dates

376-444

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list



Peter Chrysologus, St.

Personal

Called *chrysologus* (golden-mouthed) because of exceptional preaching eloquence

Archbishop of Ravenna, 433-450

Named in 1729 by Benedict XIII

Place and dates

406-450

Writings

Many sermons survive



Leo The Great, St.

Personal

Pope, 440-461

Confirmed the doctrine of the Incarnation (Council of Chalcedon, 451)

Held the doctrinal primacy of Rome

Persuaded Atilla the Hun not to invade Rome

Named in 1754 by Benedict XIV

Place and dates

461

Writings

143 surviving letters

96 sermons



Gregory I, St.

Personal

Western theologian

Named in 1298 by Bonaface VIII

Place and dates

(The Great) 540?-604

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list



Isidore of Seville, St.

Personal

Encyclopedic knowledge
Archbishop of Seville
Conversion of Visigoths
Organizing the church in Spain
Named in 1722 by Innocent XIII

Place and dates

560?-636?

Writings

De Natura Rerum

Etymologies: an encyclopedia

Chronica Majora: a compilation
from church historians

Biographies

A summary of Christian doctrine



Bede The Venerable, St.

Personal

English Benedictine monk

Prolific writer

Named in 1899 by Leo XIII

Place and dates

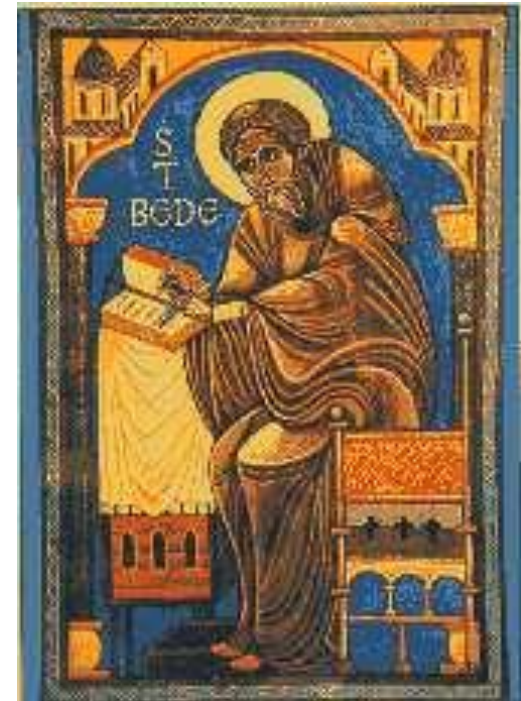
673?-735

Writings

Ecclesiastical History of the English People (731)

On the Reckoning of Time (725)

Historia Abbatum (725)



John Damascene, St.

Personal

Named in 1890 by Leo XIII

Place and dates

675-749

Writings

See Post-Apostolic Fathers' list



Peter Damien, St.

Personal

Benedictine monk
Cardinal and Bishop of Ostia
Ecclesiastical statesman and reformer
Named in 1828 by Leo XII

Place and dates

1007-1072

Writings

Notable poet
Wrote reforms for popes, clergy, monks



Anselm, St.

Personal

Benedictine monk

Theologian

Philosopher; proposed famous argument
for existence of God

Archbishop of Canterbury, 1093-1100

Named in 1720 by Clement XI

Place and dates

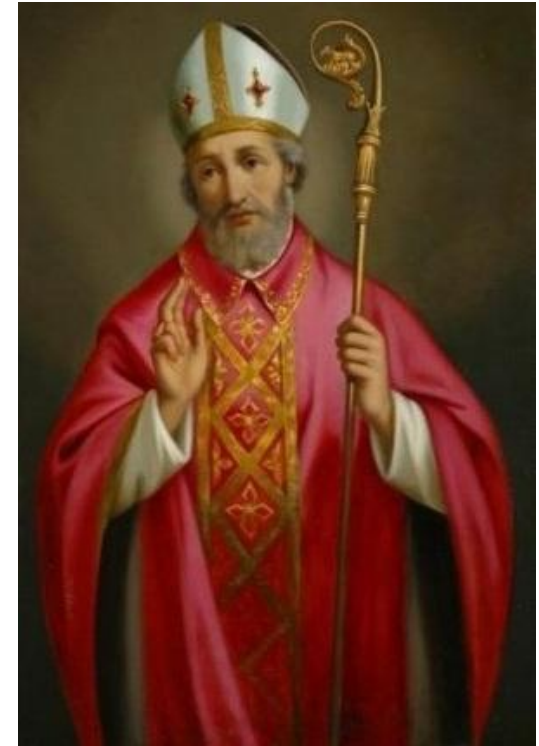
1033-1109

Writings

Monologium (1077): God as highest being and His attributes

Proslogium (1078): Faith seeking understanding

Cur Deus Homo (1093): On the Incarnation and crucifixion



Bernard of Clairvaux, St.

Personal

Cistercian monk

Preacher of the Second Crusade

Founded over 90 monasteries

Named in 1830 by Pius VIII

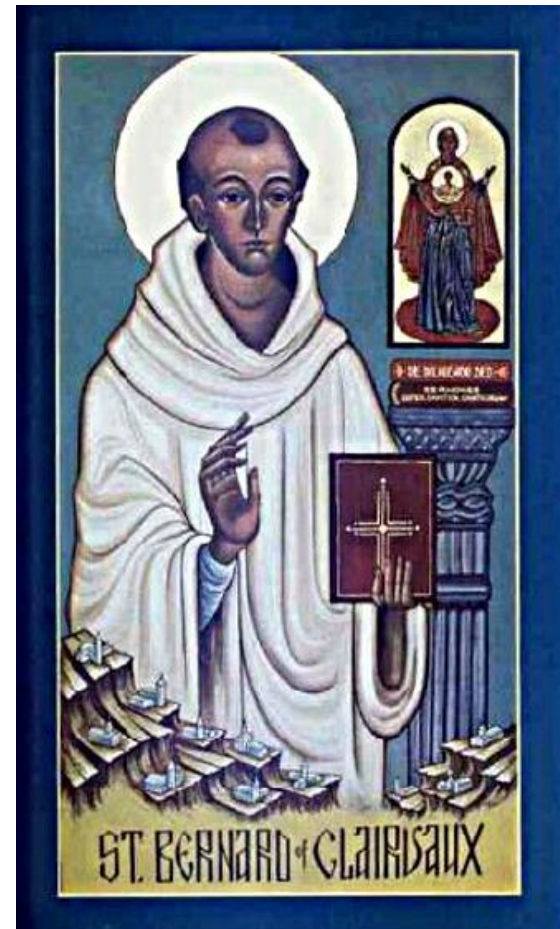
Place and dates

1090-1153

Writings

The Love of God (1127)

Consideration to Eugene III (1148)



Anthony of Padua, St.

Personal

Franciscan monk

Theologian

Exceptional intellectual and oratorical gifts

Named in 1946 by Pius XII

Place and dates

1195-1231

Writings

Lector in theology: taught at Bologna,
Montpellier, and Toulouse



Albert The Great, St.

Personal

Bishop of Ratisbon, 1260-1293

Introduced Greek and Arabic science and philosophy into the medieval world

Dominican, Order of Preachers

Teacher of Thomas Aquinas

Named in 1932 by Pius XI



Place and dates

1206-1280

Writings

Summa Theologiae (1270): attempted to reconcile Aristotelianism and Christianity

Sentences: a commentary on Peter the Lombard

De Unitate Intellectus: against the Averrhoists



Bonaventure, St.

Personal

Franciscan friar
Philosopher, theologian
Cardinal archbishop of Albano
Assisted at Council of Lyons
Named in 1588 by Sixtus V

Place and dates

1217-1274

Writings

Breviloquium (1254): Commentary on
Sacred Scripture
Journey of the Mind to God (1259)
Life of St. Francis of Assisi (1263)



Thomas Aquinas, St.

Personal

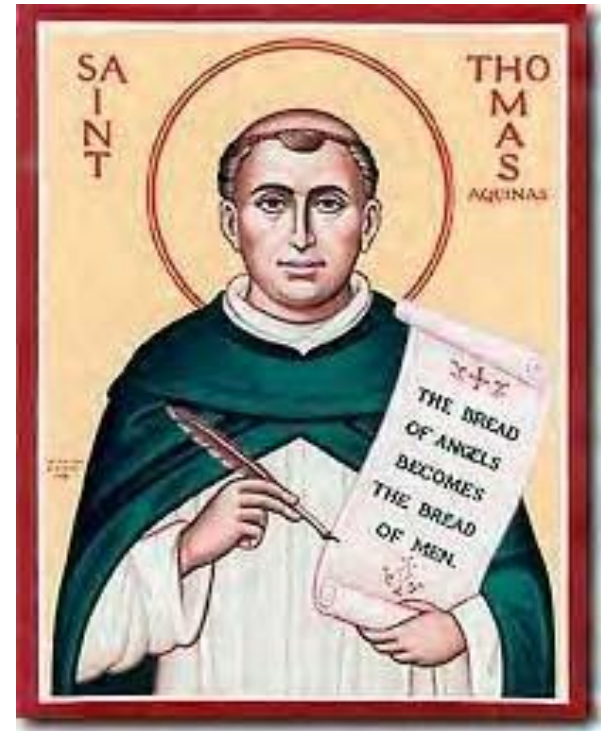
Theologian
Named in 1568 by Pius V
Italian philosopher
Educated at Monte Cassino
Ordained a priest in 1250
Advisor and lecturer to the papal court,
1259-1268

Place and dates

1225-1274

Writings

Eighty works are ascribed to him
Summa Contra Gentiles: “On the Truth of Catholic Faith,”
1261-1264: one of his greatest works, closely reasoned treatise
on the truth of Christianity
Summa Theologica: a summary of theology, (1265-1273)



Catherine of Siena, St.

Personal

Western mystic

Joined the Dominican Order in 1353

Convinced Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from Avignon

Noted for works of charity and unity in the Church

Named in 1970 by Pope Paul VI

Place and dates

1347-1380

Writings

Letters on spiritual matters

Dialogue: her ideals of reform and repentance



Theresa of Avila, St.

Personal

Western mystic

Foundress of the Order of Discalced Carmelites

Entered the convent in 1535

Worked with the aid of St. John of the Cross,
Spanish mystic and Doctor of the Church

Named in 1970 by Pope Paul VI

Place and dates

1515-1582

Writings

The Way of Perfection: (1565) advice to her nuns

The Interior Castle: (1577) an eloquent description of the
contemplative life

The Foundations: (1573-1582) the origins of the Discalced
Carmelites



Peter Canisius, St.

Personal

Jesuit

Second great Apostle of Germany

Leader, Counter-Reformation

Named in 1925 by Pius XI

Place and dates

1521-1597

Writings

Catechism (1560): instructed the faithful to defend their Faith



Robert Bellarmine, St.

Personal

Jesuit theologian

Cardinal archbishop of Capua

Revision of the Vulgate (1592)

Leader of the Counter Reformation

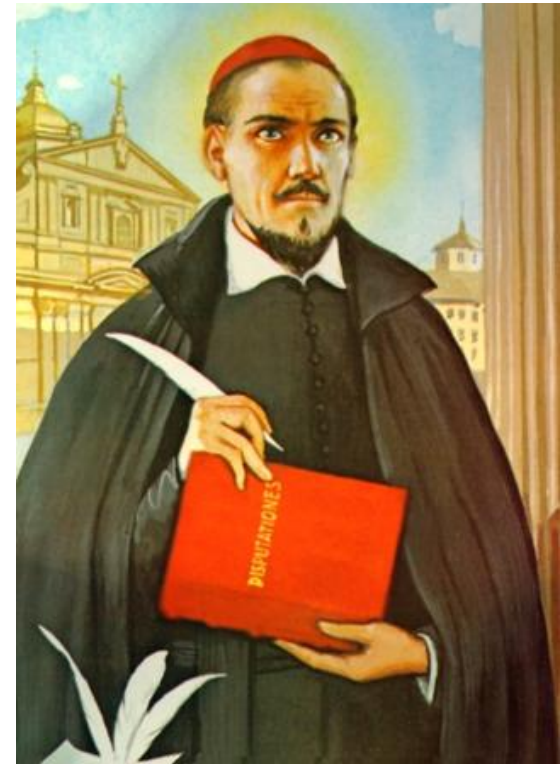
Named in 1931 by Pius XI

Place and dates

1542-1621

Writings

Disputations on the Controversies of the Christian Faith: (1568-93)



Lawrence of Brindisi, St.

Personal

Capuchin

Worked for the conversion of the Jews

Confronted the rise of Lutheranism

Organized Catholic princes against
Turkish invasion

Named in 1959 by John XXIII

Place and dates

1559-1619

Writings

Sermons

A commentary on Genesis

Writings against Lutheranism



John of the Cross, St.

Personal

Western mystic

Combined mysticism with the theology and philosophy of Aquinas

Became a Carmelite monk in 1563

Ordained a priest in 1567

Organized the Discalced Carmelites in 1568

Imprisoned for monastic reform 1576-1577

Named in 1926 by Benedict XV

Place and dates

1542-1591

Writings

Spiritual Canticle: a mystical poem

Living Flame of Love: a mystical poem

Dark Night of the Soul: describes the soul's progress in union with God



Francis De Sales, St.

Personal

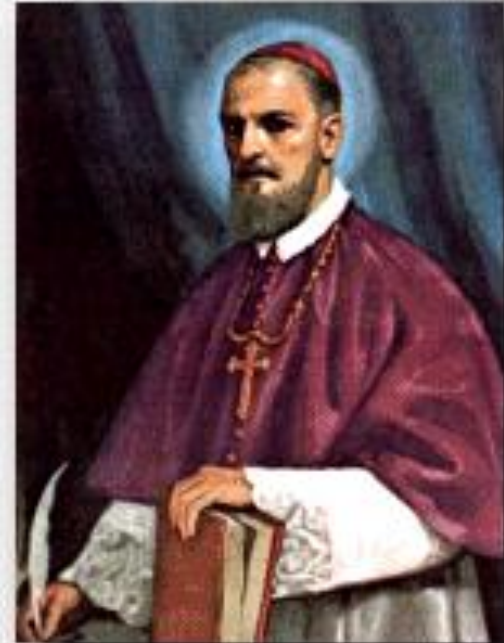
Named in 1877 by Pius IX
Bishop of Geneva, 1602-1622
Founded the Order of the Visitation
Confronted the rise of Calvinism

Place and dates

1567-1622

Writings

Introduction to the Devout Life: (1609)
shows how ordinary life can be
sanctified .



Alfonso Liguori, St.

Personal

Founded the Redemptorist Order in 1732

Bishop of St. Agatha, 1756-1775

Named in 1871 by Pius IX

Place and dates

1696-1787

Writings

Moral Theology

Glories of Mary: (1750)



Theresa of Lisieux, St.

Personal

Carmelite Nun: Sister Theresa of the Child Jesus

Also known as “The Little Flower of Jesus”

Canonized: May 17, 1925

Created a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II,
October 19, 1997

The third woman among 33 Doctors

Place and dates

Born: Alencon, France, January 2, 1873

Died: Lisieux, France, September 30, 1897

Writings

Autobiography of a Saint. Letter and
Spiritual Counsels



Handing On Divine Revelation: Vatican Council II

Decree On Divine Revelation, Chapter 2

... God has seen to it that what He has revealed ...
would abide perpetually in its full integrity
and be **handed on** to all generations.

... Christ the Lord ... full revelation of ... God ...
commissioned the apostles ...
this commission was faithfully fulfilled ...
by their oral preaching,
by example, and
by ordinances,

... (the apostles)

handed on what they had received
from the lips of Christ,
from living with Him, and
from what He did, or

what they had learned through the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
... in order to keep the gospel forever whole and alive ...
the apostles left bishops as their successors,
handing over their own teaching role to them.

This sacred tradition, therefore, and
sacred Scripture of both the Old and New Testament
are like a mirror in which the pilgrim Church on earth looks
at God ...

... the apostolic preaching,
which is expressed in a special way in the inspired books,
was to be preserved by a continuous succession
of preachers until the end of time.

... what was ***handed on*** by the apostles includes everything that contributes to the holiness of life, and the increase in faith of the People of God;

so the Church
in her teaching,
life, and
worship,

perpetuates and ***hands on*** to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes.

There is a growth in the understanding of the realities and the words

which have been ***handed down*** ...

through the contemplation and study made by believers ...

through the intimate understanding of spiritual things ...

through the preaching of those who have received through
episcopal succession the sure gift of truth.

Words of the holy Fathers witness to the living presence
of this tradition;

Through the same tradition the Church's full canon of
the sacred books is known;

and the sacred writing themselves are more profoundly
understood and increasingly made known in her.

*... there exists a close connection and communication between
sacred tradition, and
sacred Scripture ...
both of them
 flowing from the same well spring ...
 merge into a unity and
 tend toward the same end.*

Sacred Scripture is the word of God
 consigned to writing under the inspiration of the Spirit;

sacred tradition **hands on** in its full purity God's word
 entrusted to the apostles by Christ.

... it is not from sacred Scripture alone
 that the Church draws her certainty about everything
 which has been revealed.

***Sacred tradition and sacred Scripture form
one sacred deposit of the word of God.***



Closing session of Vatican II on Dec. 8, 1965

End of
**Divine Revelation by Mouth, Doctors of the Church,
Part III**

Go to
Truth Handling and Authority, Part IVa