

Doctors of the Church

St. John of the Cross

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

St. Lawrence of Brindisi

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

St. Leo the Great

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

St. Peter Canisius

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

St. Peter Chrysologus

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

St. Peter Damian

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

St. Robert Bellarmine

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)

St. Teresa of Avila

Personal: Western mystic

Foundress of the Order of Discalced Carmelites

Entered the convent in 1535

Founded the new order in 1562

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

St. Therese of Lisieux

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

St. Thomas Aquinas

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)

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Pamphlet 182

St. Albert the Great

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

St. Alphonsus Liguori

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)

St. Ambrose

Personal:Bishop of Milan (374)

Defended the churches of Milan against Arianism

Friend of Monica, mother of Augustine, and finally brought Augustine into the Church

Place and dates: (Tier, now in Germany) 340?-397

Writings:*On Faith*: a Christian morals manual, *On the Sacraments*: an exegetical treatise, *On the Holy Spirit*: an exegetical treatise, Composed many hymns

St. Anselm

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

St. Anthony of Padua

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

St. Athanasius

Personal: Eastern theologian

Named in 1568 by Pius V

Place and dates: 293-373

Writings: *Discourses Against the Arians, History of the Arians Apology Against the Arian, On the Decrees of the Nicene Synod*

St. Augustine

Personal: Son of Monica (332?-387)

Born a pagan

Converted in 387 and baptized by Ambrose

Ordained a priest in 391

Bishop of Hippo (395)

Combated Manichean heresy (conflict of Good and Evil)

Place and dates: (Numidia, now Algeria) 354-430

Writings: *Confessions* (c. 400): his autobiography, *The City of God* (413-426): great Christian apologia; a theological philosophy of history, *Retractions* (428): final verdict of earlier works, *Epistles* (386-429), *On Free Will* (388-395), *On Christian Doctrine* (397), *On Baptism: Against the Donatists* (400) *On the Trinity* (400-416), *On Nature and Grace* (415), *Homilies*

St. Basil the Great

Personal: Brother of Gregory of Nyssa and a friend of Gregory of Nazianzus

Patriarch of Eastern monasticism

Wrote a rule of the monastic way of life

Founded the Basilian monks (360)

Bishop of Caesarea (370).

Place and dates: (Caesarea Mazaca) 329?-379

Writings: *Against Eunomius*: written against the Arian leader Eunomius, *On the Holy Spirit*: a doctrinal treatise, *Moralia*: an anthology of New Testament verses, *Liturgy of St. Basil*

St. Bede, the Venerable

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)

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

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)

St. Bonaventure

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)

St. Catherine of Siena

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

St. Cyril of Alexandria

Personal: Patriarch of Alexandria in 412

Leader of the Council of Ephesus, 431

Instrumental in condemning Nestorianism

Place and dates: (Alexandria) 376-444

Writings: Against Nestorius, Against Julian the Apostate, Prolific writer

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Personal: Bishop of Jerusalem in 351

Embroided in controversy over episcopal duties

Place and dates: (Jerusalem) 315?-387?

Writings: *23 Treatises*: addressed to catechumens and newly baptized

St. Ephraem the Syrian

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

St. Francis de Sales

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)

St. Gregory Nazianzus

Personal: Bishop of Sasima (371)

Took charge of the Nicene congregation of Constantinople where he delivered five discourses on the Trinity that earned him fame as "The Theologian"

Place and dates: (Nazianzus in Capadocia, now Turkey) 329?-389

Writings: *Philokalia* (Love of the Beautiful): an anthology of the writings of Origen

St. Gregory the Great

Personal: Prefect of Rome in 570

Became a monk in 575

Elected pope (r. 590-604)

Enhanced prestige of the papacy

Upheld Rome's traditional claims of church primacy over the patriarch of Constantinople

Introduced liturgical reforms and Gregorian chant

Extensive pastoral activity.

Place and dates: (Rome) 540?-604

Writings: *Moralia*: a commentary on the *Book of Job*, *Pastoral Care*, *Dialogues*: legends of saints of his own time

St. Hilary of Poitiers

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

St. Isidore of Seville

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

St. Jerome

Personal: Biblical scholar

Ordained a priest in 386

Secretary to Pope Damasus I in 382

Confronted many heresies, especially Pelagianism

Place and dates: (Stridon, present day Slovenia) 345?-419

Writings: *The Vulgate*: translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin, 383-384, in Rome

St. John Chrysostom

Personal: Ordained a priest in 386

Greatest orator of the early Church

Patriarch of Constantinople in 398

Place and dates: (Antioch, Syria) 349?-407

Writings: *On the Priesthood*, *Homilie*, Wrote commentaries, epistles, treatises, and liturgies

St. John Damascene

Personal: Financial officer to Saracen caliph

Resigned in 700

Entered a monastery and ordained a priest

Opposed the Iconoclasts

Place and dates: (Damascus, Syria) 675-749

Writings: *Source of Knowledge*: three part text of dogmatic theology in the early Greek church; contains a complete theological system based on the early Greek fathers and synods of 4th-7th centuries