

Session 1 Church Fathers (>Apostles; <787): Holiness of life, Soundness of doctrine, Antiquity, Church approval. Polemists refute internal errors; Apologists respond to external attack; Theologians/Teachers establish and teach orthodoxy; Evangelists spread the faith; Roles: Martyrs, Missionaries, Monastics, and Mystics.

Apostolic Fathers

Didache oldest Christian catechism written anonymously in the first century, predating the NT.

Ignatius of Antioch (35-107)

Upheld: Real Presence, The Hierarchy (bishop, presbytery, deacons), Papal Primacy, Unity.

Clement of Rome (Papacy 88-97)

4th Pope likely ordained by Peter. Upheld: Tradition, justification by faith evidenced by works, Apostolic Succession.

Polycarp (69-155)

Instructed by apostles, knew many who had seen Christ, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr.

Anti-Nicene Fathers

Justin Martyr (100-65)

One of the 1st apologists, upheld Real Presence, described Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as The: Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, & The Agape Feast - disappeared in 2nd century.

Melito of Sardis (-180)

Messianic Jew, Bishop, prophet, and teacher on divinity, humanity, and unity of Christ. Established 1st OT canon.

Irenaeus (130-200)

Father of Theology, Dr. of Unity, 1st to call Scriptures OT & NT, told of Christians in Britain, Germany, & Spain.

Opposed: Gnostics & Ebionite. Upheld: Apostolic Succession, Papal Primacy, Infant Baptism, Tradition.

Christian Humanist Fathers

Pantaenus (-200)

John Mark founded the oldest Catechetical School in Alexandria. Included men & women, Christians & Pagans, Egyptians & foreigners. Pantaenus: Sicilian stoic philosopher convert, *Sicilian Bee*, taught theology, philosophy, Scriptural interpretation, & science, personal missionary to India, Yemen, Arabia, & Ethiopia.

Clement of Alexandria (155-215)

Quadriga Scripture interpretation: literal, allegorical (hidden), moral, and anagogical (mystical).

Upheld: humanities, deification, missionaries, episcopate, communion of saints.

Origen of Alexandria (185-254)

Upheld: purposeful charity, public service, & bishops, Communion of Angels & Saints, Infant Baptism.

3 level Scripture interpretation: literal, moral, & spiritual, in context of whole. Salvation: Free will participation with grace- reconciliation. Heresy: Subordinate Trinity (Father>Son>Spirit), Universal salvation.

Theophilus of Antioch (120-190)

Converted by & devoted to Scriptural study, served as Antioch's 6th Bishop, started the Antiochian school of Christian beliefs, wrote apologetics, exegetics, & polemics, described God as God, his word, and his wisdom, pre-Trinity.

Bardaisan (154-222) of Edessa

scholar of astrology, philosophy, poetry, and science, Christian apologist, orthodox Trinitarian beliefs, understood & sympathized with other religions & philosophies, free will is governed by nature & fate subject to God, choices are limited by conditions of birth, overcome by Christ the world will live in peace, Church declared his beliefs heretical.

Demitrius of Alexandria (189-231)

Bishop, Institutionalized Orthodoxy, promoted synods.

Hippolytus (170-235)

Theologian, disciple of Irenaeus, Bishop, wrote apologies, canons, commentaries, homilies, & polemics.

Tertullian (160-225)

Carthaginian, 1st Latin Church scholar & Lawyer, built foundation for canon law. Declared 'martyr's blood is the seed of faith,' Coined terms: sacrament (soldier's oath of allegiance), Trinity. Upheld: apostolic succession, Icons, Mass for the dead (date of death/birth into eternal life). Opposed: Abortion, Infanticide, & Papal supremacy as causing the Church to lose spirituality). Heresy: left the Church but survives as a cornerstone.

Cyprian of Carthage (200-50)

Upheld: infant baptism, graded penance, Papal primacy, Communion of Saints, absolute authority of bishops, clergy as sacrificing priesthood, no salvation outside the Church.

Lactantius (250-325)

Upheld: Christianity- defended against elitist Roman pagans and Hellenist philosophers.

Initiated: Modern concept of freedom of conscience and religion.

Desert Fathers**Paul of Thebes, (218-341)**

Lived for nearly 100 years, in a desert cave near the Red Sea, relying on a palm tree for food and clothing.

Antony (251-356)

The Father of Monks

Took on: seclusion, celibacy, prayer, meditation, and fasting, seeking direct relationship with God.

Pachomius (290-346)

Egyptian, Roman soldier convert, Founded 9 monasteries for communal prayer groups called lavra, led by a higumen (abbot), 1st rules governing life, clothing, and food, 3,000 thousand in his lifetime, 50,000 in 50 years.

Marcarius (300-391)

The Old Young Man, gifts of wisdom, discernment, prophecy, & healing. Life of prayer and fasting studying under Antony, priest, started a monastic community, Spiritual Homilies on the Gifts of the Spirit that influenced eastern monasticism, Christian mystics, & modern Charismatics.

Evagrius Ponticus (345-399)

fled to the dessert to avoid sexual temptation, wrote the 7 deadly sins: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy, & pride, prescribed a method of prayer, meditation, & work to avoid them.

Session 2 Poets & Hymnists**Ephraim of Syria (306-73)**

Father of Hymnody, only *Deacon Dr. of the Church*, life of prayer and fasting, food drives, founded hospital, authored poems, chants, hymns, antiphonal songs, commentaries, and instructions still in use, exported east & west.

Paulinus of Nola (354-431)

Roman Governor built hospice for poor, friend of Ambrose, Martin of Tours, Augustine, & Jerome, philanthropist after losing 8 day old son, ordained, established monastic community, Bishop of Nola, Renowned classic poet.

Prudentius (348-413)

Roman Governor born in northern Spain, popularized metaphorical epoch poetry that flourished in medieval Europe, retired to an ascetic life, writing hymns, Christian apologies, and poems venerating martyrs.

Romanus the Melodist (5th Century)

Jewish, Beirut Deacon, moved to Constantinople, clergymen mocked his broken Greek, spontaneously chanted an original Nativity song to a congregation, the Patriarch, & Emperor, wrote music and lyrics for > 1,000 hymns.

Nicene Fathers

Eusebius of Caesarea (265-339)

The Father of Church History and Political Theology, Constantine's theologian, 1st major Church Historian, played a significant role in the construction of the Bible.

Aphrahat (280-345)

The Persian Sage debated Jewish Rabbis and philosophers, preached Nicene beliefs based on Paul's epistles, Bishop, spoke of the Holy Spirit as the mother of creation.

Gregory the Illuminator (3rd/4th Century)

Armenian aristocrat thrown into a pit for 13 years for his faith, healed and converted the King, Armenia 1st Christian nation, translated and illustrated Scriptures, Armenia built hospitals, homes for blind, lepers, widows, & orphans.

Athanasius of Alexandria (-373)

Great Father of Orthodoxy, Dr. of the Church, 1st official list of Scriptures, argued for the orthodox Trinity, God created the world from nothing, spread the monastic movement to Constantinople & Europe. Endured 5 Arian exiles.

Fruentius (-383)

Shipwrecked in Red Sea, became secretary-treasurer to King & tutored his son, served as regent, evangelized, requested an Abuna (Bishop), Patriarch ordained him, baptized the King, named Abba Salama, *Father of Light*.

Epiphanius of Salamis (310-403)

Jewish desert monk, returned & founded a monastery, ordained, fluent in 5 languages, appointed Bishop of Salamis and Metropolitan of Cyprus, linguistic ability enabled him to document and zealously censure 80 heretical groups.

Didymus the Blind (313-98)

Blinded at 4, 'audiographic' memory, head of the Catechetical School of Alexandria, used carved letters like braille to help the blind. Taught Jerome. One of the 1st Holy Spirit Theologians, 2nd Great Council condemned him, but Popes John Paul II and Francis cited his work.

Cyril of Jerusalem (315-86)

The Dr. of Catechesis, 1st exposition of the Creed, Baptism, Confirmation, and the Real Presence, influenced liturgy, lived through 3 Arian exiles. Upheld: divinity of Christ, catholic nature of the Church, immortal soul.

Hilary of Poitiers (315-68)

Dr. of the Church, Athanasius of the west, husband, father, held to his faith in exile. Opposed: Arianism.

Cappadocians

Named for their place of origin in central Asia Minor or modern-day Turkey.

Basil the Great (330-379)

Great Father of Eastern Monasticism, Dr. of the Church, reformer, studied the classics with the future Emperor, Bishop of Caesarea, formed the Cappadocians on 33 principles and 313 applications, Communal monastics who pray, read the Bible, cared for lepers, ran soup kitchens, built hospitals, ran schools, and orphanages.

Gregory of Nyssa (335-394)

The Father of Fathers, Mystical Theology defines what God is not as He cannot be comprehended, we know God through revelation and the experience of His actions, We seek union through inner stillness, The Jesus prayer.

Gregory of Nazianzus (329-89)

Christian Demosthenes, Great Father & Dr. of the Church, poet, studied rhetoric until 30, Bishop of Constantinople, 2nd opportunity to find 'the mystery of love', wrote-edited the *Philokalia*, Mystic theology of Christ's epiphany & transfiguration with Gregory of Nyssa, described our relationship with God as dancing, indwelling, or intimacy.

Celtics

Mystical, nature loving, explorers who lived in Clans, valued heroes, warriors, poets, teachers, musicians, and storytellers, superstitious #3, believed in an after world.

Patrick, (389-461)

captured and enslaved by Irish barbarians raiding Wales, son of a deacon son of a priest, wealthy landowner, and Roman citizen, escaped after 6 years, After 12 years of study returned to Christianize Ireland without a martyr or execution, used commonality to convert the Druids: triune god illustrated by clover, immortality, resurrection, and after life.

Enda (460-530)

1st Irish monastic, 1 generation from illiteracy, Irish monastics preserved early church writings & classic literature, monks traveled by sea in groups of 13, Bishops & priests evangelized & administered sacraments, Abbots were spiritual advisors ruling the congregations, Monasteries were commercial, agricultural, educational, & recreational centers.

Columba (521-97)

poet, writer, storyteller, and natural leader evangelized the Scots and Northern England from Iona.

Samson (485-565)

Welsh oblate, left for Ireland & Channel Islands with father & uncle, built Monasteries & Churches in Cornwall, Founded Brittany, built Monasteries in Normandy, As an Abott and Bishop performed miracles as far south as Paris.

Columbanus (540-615)

Writer, lecturer, theologian, and preacher in Briton, France, Switzerland, and to the Lombards, founded over 60 monasteries, Disgusted with immorality in the Church- openly criticized the Pope, taught discipline with corporal punishment, championed minority causes.

Session 3 Post Nicene Fathers**Martin of Tours (335-)**

Hungarian son of Roman officer, popularized monasticism in West, charity and missions, military officer, gave cape to beggar, chapel/chaplain derive from Capella, protest worldly Bishops. upper class monastics convert & educate France,

Jerome (340-420)

Great Father of Biblical Science, Dr. of the Church, Pope's secretary, studied under Gregory Nazianzen and Rabbis, pioneered monastic scholarship, Fluent in 3 languages, translated Bible to Latin, protested clerical wealth, fought with Augustine, left Rome for Holy Land, built monasteries with guesthouses, promoted relics, defined venial/mortal sin.

Ambrose (340-97)

Great Father, Dr. of the Church, Governor of North Italy, Bishop of Milan, donated wealth to poor & Church, spoke out about slaughter of heretics & Jews, 1st bishop to threaten Emperor with excommunication, coined term Mass, sole purpose of marital sex is procreation, brought congregational singing to the west, used relics.

Augustine (11/13/354-430)

Great Father, Dr. of Grace, Carthaginian scholar astronomy & philosophy, sexual puritan, promoted enforced celibacy, wrote: 1st autobiography, 500 sermons, 200 letters, & 100 books, defined Man's image of God as mind, will & emotion, time beginning & end- 3 eras: OT-Father, NT-Son, & Church Era-Spirit, minister instrument of man's personal relationship with God, grace-salvation/unrighteousness-damnation, united with God in love: "love and do what you will." Upheld: unity, original sin, purgatory, Mary as intercessor, 'just war.' Added Filioque to the Creed.

John Chrysostum (347-407)

Prince of Ancient Exegetes, Great Father, Dr. of the Eucharist, Antioch lawyer, monk, unequalled preacher, Founded Monastery @home until mother passed, Lived in dessert for 6 yrs., became lector, deacon, & priest, memorized NT in 2 years, Authored Orthodox Divine Liturgy, Bishop of Constantinople, sold furnishings to help build a hospital & support the poor, Chief Orthodox Bible interpreter: opposed allegory, grammar, historical background, & context, started evening services for working class, exiled for outspokenness. Upheld: intimacy as God's gift to a married couple.

Maron (-410)

Born in Syria, studied with John Chrysostum, became a priest and monk, lived outdoors seeking God's presence, ministered spiritual and physical, following spread to Lebanon, founded Maronite Church, in communion with Rome.

John Cassian (360-435)

Romanian mystic, studied under Chrysostum, traveled to Palestine, Egypt, Antioch, Constantinople, and Gaul. Founded a monastery in Marseilles, bridged the monastic worlds, influenced Benedict, Opposed: double predestination.

Cyril of Alexandria (376-444)

Dr. of the Incarnation, Archbishop of Constantinople, preacher, political theologian, fierce debater, brought monastics to Constantinople became center of Orthodox monasticism. Opposed: Nestorianism.

Peter Chrysologus (406-50)

Dr. of Homilies, charismatic deacon and spiritual counselor who collected the finest Christian mosaic art of the era.

Sabbas (429-532)

Cappadocian founded Mar Saba Monastery in Kidron Valley preserved texts of the Jerusalem Patriarchs during the Muslim siege, formed the basis for the modern Byzantine Rite, numerous miracles, slandered by own monks.

Pope Leo I (Papacy 440-61)

Dr. of Church Unity, directly from deacon to Pope, 34 of 37 popes selected between 432 and 684 were deacons, *Tome*: true God and true man, courageous statesman, met face to face with German Barbarians and Atilla the Hun.

Vincent of Lerins (-450)

Opposed double predestination innovation, Gallic monk defined 3-fold test of Orthodoxy: catholicity, antiquity, and ubiquity, believed everywhere, always, by all. Opposed: individual interpretation of Scripture.

Cassiodorus (485-585)

Calabrian who gained the Pope's support to rebuild education after the fall of Rome, built a Greek/Latin Library to serve Christian school in Rome, elevated transcription to a monastic artform.

Benedict of Nursia (480-547)

Patron saint of Europe, administrative genius, strict discipline of practical work & devotion, organization and worship, Vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, 1 year trial, allegiance to elected Abbot, worked farms & vigil wine vineyards.

Denis, Pseudo Dionysius (5th/6th Century)

Used penname for credence, Classic Christian Mysticism- you only know God by experience, *Threefold Way* of perfection in love: purification, illumination, unification, classified decrees of synods & canon law.

John Climacus (6th/7th Century)

John of the Ladder, Abbot of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai, wrote of 30 steps to govern progressive monastic salvation walk called *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, heavily influenced Eastern monastic spirituality.

Maximus the Confessor (580-662)

Synthesized Theology around Origen, Cyril, the Cappadocians, and Dionysius, Emperor's personal secretary, same Emperor ordered his torture and execution for opposing monothelism, Upheld: deification, Papal primacy.

Pope Gregory I (Papacy 590-604)

Great Father, Dr. of the Church, Luther: *'The Last Bishop of Rome'*, 1st monastic Pope, urban prefect & deacon, gave fortune to the poor, founded 6 monasteries, apocrisiarii for 7 years, godfather of Emperor's son, elected pope after 6 mos. without one, acknowledged Peter's shortcomings, offended by title universal bishop - foolish, proud, blasphemous, & diabolical, called himself *Servant of the Servants of God*, took charge of Roman admin. & institutionalized the Church, reformed & rebuilt infrastructure, arbiter, judge, food distributor, & civil defense leader, master statesman, arranged peace with Lombards, confirmed Benedictine rule, built educational system & agricultural economy of Europe, sheltered the poor, hosted 12 poor people at daily meals, sent missionaries to 3 countries, excellent pastor, preacher, & theologian, 4 Churches recognize him as saint. Upheld: relics & purgatory.

Bishop Isidore of Seville (560-636)

Last of the Latin Church Fathers, Dr. of the Church, Last Scholar of the Ancient World, Visigoth Bishop of Seville, raised by brother who became an Archbishop, built a Systematic, Encyclopedia of Theology, arithmetic, astronomy, the Bible, Biblical interpretation, geometry, grammar, law, medicine, music, rhetoric, Church canon & offices, introduced Arabic numerals, formed the method & content of primary to university education that lasted 800 years.

Bede (673-735)

The Father of English History, Dr. of the English, an oblate, went blind in late life, left us most of our early English records, wrote encyclopedic history without leaving York, Translated John's Gospel to English, popularized AD/BC.

John of Damascus (676-749)

Dr. of the Assumption, Theologian's theologian, Arab monk, studied theology, philosophy, law, mathematics, & music, wrote Church services, hymns, & Church Father survey, defended icons as an aid to veneration and worship.