

Church Fathers / Episode 4 / St. Pope Gregory

Video	Audio
<p>Att. Picture of the Church (1).</p> <p>Att. Picture of the Ascension (2).</p> <p>Att. Picture of the Bible (3).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Church Fathers (4).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Catholics in the Pews (5).</p> <p>Att. Picture of St. Gregory the Great (6).</p>	<p><<CAM 1>> Hello and Welcome to this edition of Wisdom of the Fathers.</p> <p>The Catholic faith is one of rich intellectual tradition ... stretching all the way back to the time of Christ.</p> <p>When Christ ascended into Heaven ... He left us a church that was in its infancy ... in its self-understanding.</p> <p>This infancy created a NEED within in the church for individuals to RISE UP ... think about ... pray over ... and meditate upon what God was revealing.</p> <p>The answer to this NEED was the Church Fathers ... certain individuals who were intellectual giants ... gifted with the ability to either break down an article of faith into its simplest form or develop it further.</p> <p>They did this so 'we' ordinary Catholics could understand the fullness of what Jesus was trying to purport to us in sacred scripture and apostolic tradition ... also known as the Deposit of Faith.</p> <p>In this fourth episode of Wisdom of the Fathers we're going to talk about Saint Gregory the Great ... a significant Church Father and Pope. <<CAM 2>></p> <p>Now ... before we get into the details of his life ... let's step back for one moment and assess the impact of this man.</p> <p>Pope St. Gregory the Great is exceptionally unique in the eyes of the</p>

<p>Att. Type on ... “The Great” ... “Only TWO popes ... have been given the title such a title.”</p> <p>Att. Picture of a barbarian (7). Att. Picture of famine/epidemics (8). Att. Picture of Gregory Writing (21).</p> <p>Att. Picture of St. Gregory (9).</p> <p>Att. Play Gregorian chant for a few seconds.</p> <p>Type on ... “Moralia on Job ... The Dialouges ... Homilies on the Gospel ... Homilies on Ezekiel”.</p> <p>Att. Picture of Gregorian music (17) Att. Picture of Council of Trent (18)</p>	<p>Church. He was not only Pope but also became a saint and was later given the title “the Great.” As a matter of fact, ... only THREE popes ... Leo the FIRST ... Gregory the FIRST ... and Nicholas the FIRST have been given the title of “the Great.” He was given the name “Great” for three reasons.</p> <p>First ... he reigned during invasions ... namely ... the barbarian invasions in Italy. Second ... he was in office when Rome faced famine and numerous epidemics. Third ... he was an exceptional writer and ruler.</p> <p>Pope St. Gregory is also known for his influence on the forms of public worship. For example ... he started a school for the training of church musicians ... and Gregorian chant ... plainchant ... is named after him. In addition ... the schedule of Scripture readings ... and the accompanying prayers ... in use throughout most of Western Christendom ... is primarily due to his fervor for organization. <<CAM 1>></p> <p>Gregory wrote several works ... including the Moralia on Job and his handbook for rulers ... Pastoral Rule ... was enormously popular. The Dialouges ..., which showcase a life of St. Benedict of Nursia . . . that describes the saint’s many miracles ... was also well liked and significant. His Homilies on the Gospel were preached to the people and offered practical wisdom ... and his Homilies on Ezekiel clarified the mysterious symbolism of the Temple of Jerusalem to monastic audiences.</p> <p>He taught that the church and its sacraments provided a safe path to salvation in a fallen world ... and the</p>
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	<p>significance Gregory placed on the Eucharist defined the medieval church. These teachings would be highlighted in the Counter-Reformation ... when Gregory's view of the church ... focusing on penance ... works ... and the sacraments ... was reemphasized in response to Protestant revolts.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of St. Gregory (10).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Caelian Hill (11).</p> <p>Att. Type on ... "Grammar ... Dialectic ... and Rhetoric ... Latin ... Science ... History ... Mathematics ... Music ... Imperial Law."</p> <p>Att. Picture of a Monk (12).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Life of Saint Gregory</p> <p><<CAM 2>></p> <p>Saint Gregory was born in 540 in the city of Rome. His family was wealthy with close connections to the church.</p> <p>His parents lived in a villa suburbana on the Caelian Hill in Rome . . . and family owned working estates in Sicily and Rome.</p> <p>His father ... Gordianus ... was an administrator in the Roman Church ..., which oversaw a district not connected to the Papal Palace or the titular churches of Rome. His mother ... Silvia ... was from a noble family and eventually became a saint. His three paternal aunts were also renowned for their sanctity.</p> <p>Gregory was well educated in grammar ... dialectic ... and rhetoric . . . and could write Latin. He knew Latin authors ... natural science ... history ... mathematics ... music ... and was well versed in imperial law. He took part in Roman political life and at one point was Prefect of the City. As we can see ... he was an extraordinary individual.</p> <p><<CAM 1>></p> <p>In 574 ... at the age of 34 ... he became a monk. During this period ... his father died and he decided to convert the family</p>

<p>Att. Picture of a Deacon being consecrated (13). Att. Picture of Pope Pelagius II (14).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Gregory at his monastery (15). Att. Picture of Gregory as Pope (9).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Gregory writing (16).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Gregory celebrating Mass (20).</p> <p>Att. Type on ... Servant of the Servants of God”.</p> <p>Att. Type on ... “The Father of Christian Worship”.</p>	<p>villa suburbana into a monastery dedicated to the apostle Saint Andrew.</p> <p>In the course of his monastic life ... he decided to become a deacon and was ordained by Pope Pelagius the SECOND. After his ordination ... the pope asked Gregory for his assistance in trying to heal the schism of the Three Chapters in northern Italy.</p> <p>In 579 ... at the age of 39 ... the pope chose Gregory as his ambassador to the imperial court in Constantinople.</p> <p>After a few years as ambassador ... Gregory left Constantinople in 585 and returned to his monastery on the Caelian Hill. He was then elected by acclamation to succeed Pelagius the SECOND in 590 at the age of 50. <<CAM 2>></p> <p>In his first years as Pope ... he wrote a series of letters disavowing any ambition to the throne of St. Peter ... and praised the contemplative life of the monks. He later accepted God’s calling and went about fulfilling his duties as Pontiff ... thus becoming the first “monk” pope.</p> <p>In his official documents ... Gregory was the first to make extensive use of the term “Servant of the Servants of God” as a papal title ... thus initiating a practice that was to be followed by most subsequent popes.</p> <p>He also made a general revision to the liturgy of the Pre-Tridentine Mass and for this effort he became known as the “Father of Christian Worship.” John the Deacon wrote that Pope Gregory the FIRST “removed many things ... changed a few ... and added some” to the Mass. Furthermore ... he remarks that he</p>
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<p>Att. Picture of Pope Gregory's tomb (19).</p> <p>Att. Picture of England (22). Att. Picture of Netherlands (23). Att. Picture of Germany (24).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Pope Gregory (10).</p>	<p>moved the Lord's prayer to immediately follow after the Roman Canon and immediately before the Fraction. This position is still maintained today in the Roman Liturgy. Lastly ... he reduced the role of deacons in the Roman Liturgy.</p> <p><<CAM 1>></p> <p>Pope Gregory the FIRST died in 604. He is known for being a reformer ... an excellent administrator ... and a "founder" of the medieval papacy ..., which exercised both secular and spiritual power. Historians credit Pope Gregory with re-energizing the Church's missionary work among the non-Christian peoples of northern Europe. He is most famous for sending a mission to evangelize the pagan Anglo-Saxons of England. The mission was successful ... and it was from England that missionaries later set out for the Netherlands and Germany.</p> <p>Now that we have an understanding of who Pope Gregory the FIRST was ... let's take a look at what he had to say about pastoral rule. <<CAM 2>></p>
<p>Att. Granite Background (for all quotes); change color of background for each quote.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pope Gregory I on Pastoral Rule</p> <p>That man [Priest], therefore, ought by all means to be drawn with cords to be an example of good living who already lives spiritually, dying to all passions of the flesh; who disregards worldly prosperity; who is afraid of no adversity; who desires only inward wealth; who perpetrates no unlawful deeds, yet deplores those perpetrated by others as though they were his own; who so insinuates himself as an example to others in all he does that among them he</p>

has nothing, at any rate of his own past deeds, to blush for; who has already learned by the use and trial of prayer that he can obtain what he has requested from the Lord, having had already said to him, as it were, through the voice of experience, While you are yet speaking, I will say, Here am I Isaiah 58:9.

Hence also it is written through the prophet, A snare for the downfall of my people are evil priests Hosea 5:1; 9:8. Hence again the Lord through the prophet says of the priests, They are made to be for a stumbling-block of iniquity to the house of Israel. For certainly no one does more harm in the Church than one who has the name and rank of sanctity, while he acts perversely.

The conduct of a prelate ought so far to transcend the conduct of the people as the life of a shepherd is wont to exalt him above the flock. It is necessary, then, that in thought he should be pure, in action chief; discreet in keeping silence, profitable in speech; a near neighbor to every one in sympathy, exalted above all in contemplation; a familiar friend of good livers through humility, unbending against the vices of evil-doers through zeal for righteousness; not relaxing in his care for what is inward from being occupied in outward things, nor neglecting to provide for outward things in his solicitude for what is inward.

The ruler should always be chief in action, that by his living he may point out the way of life to those that are put under him, and that the flock, which follows the voice and manners of the shepherd, may learn how to walk better through example than through words. For he who is required by the necessity of his

	<p>position to speak the highest things is compelled by the same necessity to exhibit the highest things. For that voice more readily penetrates the hearer's heart, which the speaker's life commends, since what he commands by speaking he helps the doing of by showing.</p> <p>The ruler should be discreet in keeping silence, profitable in speech; lest he either utter what ought to be suppressed or suppress what he ought to utter. For, as incautious speaking leads into error, so indiscreet silence leaves in error those who might have been instructed. For often improvident rulers, fearing to lose human favour, shrink timidly from speaking freely the things that are right; and, according to the voice of the Truth John 10:12, serve unto the custody of the flock by no means with the zeal of shepherds, but in the way of hirelings; since they fly when the wolf comes if they hide themselves under silence.</p>
<p>Att. Russell on screen; no pictures or animations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Conclusion</p> <p><<CAM 2>></p> <p>Well ... that's all for this episode! Thank you for tuning in to Wisdom of the Fathers!</p> <p>AND make sure to catch us next time ... where we discuss our next Church Father ... Saint John of Damascus and what he had to say about the filioque.</p> <p>I'm Russell Voris. God Bless!</p>