

Church Fathers / Episode 13 / St. Ambrose of Milan

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 Ambrose of Milan (6).</p>	<p><<CAM 1>></p> <p>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 and 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 thirteenth and final episode we're going to talk about St. Ambrose of Milan ... a well-respected Church Father.</p> <p><<CAM 2>></p> <p>Now ... before we get into the fine points of his life ... let's step back for one split second and measure the influence of this man.</p>

<p>Type on ..."Bishop ... Philosopher ... Theologian ... Religious Leader ... Teacher ... Catechumen ... Lawyer ... Writer".</p> <p>Att. Picture of St. Augustine (7). Att. Picture of St. John Chrysostom (8). Att. Picture of St. Athanasius (9).</p> <p>Att. Type on ..."Administrator ... Bishop ... Statesman".</p> <p>Att. Picture of Emperor Gratian (10).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Augustine of Hippo (11).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Emperor Valentinian (12).</p>	<p>St. Ambrose of Milan was a bishop ... a philosopher ... a theologian ... a religious leader ... a teacher ... a catechumen ... a trained lawyer ... and a writer. He was one of the most famous Fathers and Doctors of the Church ... fitly chosen ... together with St. Augustine ... St. John Chrysostom ... and St. Athanasius ... to uphold the esteemed Chair of the Prince of the Apostles in the tribune of St. Peter's in Rome.</p> <p>In terms of his personality ... he is not the philosophic scholar meditating in silence and retirement on the truths of the Christian Faith ... but the strenuous administrator ... bishop ... and statesman ... whose writings are only the mature expression of his official life and labors. In other words ... he's a go-getter. <<CAM 1>></p> <p>St. Ambrose held to the Nicene belief and through the eloquence of his arguments ... he persuaded Emperor Gratian to embrace the Nicene confession. In addition ... he greatly influenced the conversion of St. Augustine of Hippo.</p> <p>He was known to impose orthodoxy on the early Christian Church and zealously combated the imperial court's bias towards the Arians... the "old" religion ... and the Jews. In particular ... St. Ambrose opposed the many advances of the Emperor Valentinian ... who supported the Arians. In his defense of the Orthodox position ... he has often been compared to St. Hilary of Poitiers. <<CAM 2>></p> <p>St. Ambrose was well versed in a number of topics. It should be pointed out that most of his writings are homilies ...</p>
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<p>Att. Picture of the divinity of Jesus (13).</p> <p>Att. Type on ...”Popes ... Councils ... Theologians”.</p> <p>Att. Type on ... “Church-State”.</p>	<p>spoken commentaries on the Old and New Testaments ... taken down by his hearers ... and afterwards reduced to their present form. In his writings ... he talked about the divinity of Jesus ... the Holy Ghost ... and the Christian sacraments. The most influential of his ascetico-moral discourse ... is the work on the duties of Christian ecclesiastics. It is essentially a manual of Christian morality.</p> <p>His works are so highly esteemed that popes ... councils ... and theologians have frequently invoked them ... even in his own day it was felt that few could voice so evidently ... the true sense of the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church.</p> <p>He was the first to formulate ideas about church-state relations ... which would one day become the prevalent medieval Christian viewpoint.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of Ambrose (14).</p> <p>Att. Picture of Rome (15). Att. Type on ...”Literature ... Law ... Rhetoric”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Life of St. Ambrose of Milan</p> <p style="background-color: yellow; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;"><<CAM 1>></p> <p>In 340 A.D. ... St. Ambrose was born into a Roman Christian family and was raised in Trier ... where he was well acquainted with many members of the clergy. His father was Aurelius Ambrosius ... the praetorian prefect of Gaul ... his mother was a woman of intellect and piety. Ambrose had two siblings ... who are venerated as saints. One his sisters was a nun.</p> <p>After the death of his father ... St. Ambrose was educated in Rome and studied literature ... law ... and rhetoric.</p>

<p>Att. Picture of weight and balance (16).</p>	<p>In circa 372 ... he was made Governor of Liguria and Emilia ... with headquarters in Milan ... which was then the second capital city in Italy.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of ordination (17).</p>	<p>He continued as governor until 374 when he became the Bishop of Milan. He was 34 when he was elected bishop ... even though he was not yet baptized. As bishop ... he immediately adopted an ascetic lifestyle ... apportioned his money to the poor ... donated all of his land ... making only a small provision for his sister ... and committed the care of his family to his brother.</p> <p><<CAM 2>></p>
<p>Att. Type on ... “Fought Arianism and Paganism”.</p>	<p>During his time as bishop ... he fought to stop heretical ideas from infecting his flock in Milan ... such as Arianism and paganism. In one instance ... he stood against the Arians at the synod in Aquileia and refused to turn over a church in Milan for their use.</p> <p>Arianism maintained that the Son of God was created by the Father and was therefore neither coeternal with the Father ... nor consubstantial.</p>
<p>Att. Picture of Emperor Valentinian II (18).</p>	<p>In another instance ... when a pagan bloc of the legislators appealed to Emperor Valentinian the SECOND for a return to customary pagan observances ... St. Ambrose responded in a letter to the emperor with sound arguments that effectively shut the pagans down.</p> <p><<CAM 1>></p>
<p>Att. Picture of Maximus (19).</p>	<p>In 383 ... Ambrose was engaged to bargain with Maximus ... who had commandeered power in Gaul and was preparing to invade Italy. St. Ambrose was successful in dissuading Maximus from marching south. When Ambrose</p>

<p>Att. Granite Background (for all quotes); change color of background for each quote.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sin</p> <p>“Mary’s life should be for you a pictorial image of virginity. Her life is like a mirror reflecting the face of chastity and the form of virtue. Therein you may find a model for your own life . . . showing what to improve, what to imitate, what to hold fast to” (The Virgins 2:2:6 [A.D. 377]).</p> <p>“She was a virgin not only in body but also in mind, who stained the sincerity of its disposition by no guile, who was humble in heart, grave in speech, prudent in mind, sparing of words, studious in reading, resting her hope not on uncertain riches, but on the prayer of the poor, intent on work, modest in discourse; wont to seek not man but God as the judge of her thoughts, to injure no one, to have goodwill towards all, to rise up before her elders, not to envy her equals, to avoid boastfulness, to follow reason, to love virtue. When did she pain her parents even by a look? When did she disagree with her neighbors? When did she despise the lowly? When did she avoid the needy?” (ibid., 2:2:7).</p> <p>“Come, then, and search out your sheep, not through your servants or hired men, but do it yourself. Lift me up bodily and in the flesh, which is fallen in Adam. Lift me up not from Sarah but from Mary, a virgin not only undefiled, but a virgin whom grace had made inviolate, free of every stain of sin” (Commentary on Psalm 118:22-30 [A.D. 387]).</p>
<p>Att. Russell on screen; no pictures or animations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Conclusion</p> <p><<CAM 1>> 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 season ... where we bring you a slue of new lessons.</p>
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I'm Russell Voris. God Bless!