Hello and Welcome to this edition of Wisdom of the Fathers.

The Catholic faith is one of rich intellectual tradition … stretching all the way back to the time of Christ.

When Christ ascended into Heaven … He left us a church that was in its infancy … in its self-understanding.

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.

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.

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.

In this first episode of season two of Wisdom of the Fathers we’re going to revisit Tertullian … a revered Church Father.

Now … before we go into the details of this individual … let’s step back for one moment and review the significance of this his life.

Tertullian was a writer. He’s primarily known for his apologetic and theological works. He wrote on a vast array of topics that include the Trinity … Christology … ecclesiology … and sacramental theology. As we can see … he was quite knowledgeable.

Tertullian also coined two famous phrases “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church” and “What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?” In addition … he was given such titles as “the father of Latin Christianity” and “the founder of Western theology.” He’s also regarded as one of the most quotable of the early Church Fathers.

BIO SECTION

Tertullian was born in 160 A.D to pagan parents. He spent most of his youth in North Africa. His father was a centurion in the proconsular service.

He was educated in literature … rhetoric … and law. With this background … he became a scholar and a lawyer … and wrote at least three books in Greek. He was also fluent in Latin. It sounds like he had quite the thirst for knowledge.

Tertullian was a pagan until middle life. His reform to Christianity took place around 197 at the age of 37 while in North Africa. As a result of his conversion … he became a priest of the Church of Carthage in 200 at the age of 40.

At 46 … he joined the Montanist sect. He then undeniably separated from the Church
Montanus of Phrygia founded Montanism in the 2nd-century. Montanus taught that the Holy Spirit dwelt within him and made him its instrument for guiding men in the Christian way.

Tertullian ... however ... wasn't a Montanist for very long. He left the sect and found his own faction called the Tertullianists. Tertullianism was a form of Montanism and opposed second marriages and absolution of penitents. He left Montanism after finding it to be too lackadaisical. It is relevant to note that the Tertullianists were later reconciled to the Church by St. Augustine.

Tertullian died in 225 at the age of 65 estranged from the Church. After his death ... he became known as a prolific early Christian author ... a distinguished early Christian apologist ... and a polemicist against heresy. He is perhaps most famous for being the oldest Latin writer to use the term Trinity. He is also responsible for the formula ... one person in two natures.

Now that we have an understanding of who Tertullian was ... let's take a look at what he had to say about abortion.

CONCLUSION

Well ... that's it for this edition of Wisdom of the Fathers ... thanks for watching!

AND make sure to catch us next time... where we cover our next Church Father ... Pope Dionysius of Alexandria and what he had to say about the Trinity.

I'm Russell Voris. God Bless!