

DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

What exactly is a doctor of the church? ~ The title "Doctor of the Church/" unlike the popular title "Father of the Church," is an official designation that is bestowed by the Pope in recognition of the outstanding contribution a person has made to the understanding and interpretation of the sacred Scriptures and the development of Christian doctrine.

As of 2010, there are thirty-three male and female Doctors of the Catholic Church.

Three are women; Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, and Therese of Lisieux.

Twenty-four are quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The eight not quoted are Saints Ephraem, Isidore, "the Venerable" Bede, Albert the Great, Anthony of Padua, Peter Canisius, Robert Bellarmine, and Lawrence of Brindisi.

There are three requirements that must be fulfilled by a person in order to earn title of "Doctor of the Catholic Church."

- 1) holiness that is truly outstanding;
- 2) depth of doctrinal insight/understanding; and
- 3) a collection of writings that the church sees as beneficial and true to the authentic and life-giving Catholic Tradition.

St. Therese of Lisieux, 1873-1897 (proclaimed Doctor of the Church by John Paul II 10/19/97) -There is so much to say about this "little Flower," as she was called. Much is written about her, as she wanted to do nothing more in her entire life, other than to show her love for Jesus. There are short booklets about the highlights of her life that explain much about her short life. She died at the young age of 24, (1873-1897) but yet accomplished so much, all well being sickly most of her life. You have to read about this one on your own, but I will supply a link.

For more on the Doctors of the Church <http://doctorsofthecatholicchurch.com/>

Fathers of the Church

The Church Fathers, Early Church Fathers, Christian Fathers, or Fathers of the Church were early, often influential Christian theologians, some of whom were eminent teachers and great bishops. The term is used of writers or teachers of the Church, not necessarily "saints", and not necessarily ordained, though many are honored as saints in the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran Churches, and other Churches and groups.

Apostolic Fathers

The earliest Church Fathers, (within two generations of the Twelve Apostles of Christ) are usually called the Apostolic Fathers since tradition describes them as having been taught by the twelve. Important Apostolic Fathers include Clement of Rome,[5] Ignatius of Antioch and Polycarp of Smyrna. In addition, the Didache and Shepherd of Hennis are usually placed among the writings of the Apostolic Fathers although their authors are unknown; like the works of Clement, Ignatius and Polycarp, they were first written in Koine Greek.

Greek Fathers

Those who wrote in Greek are called the Greek (Church) Fathers. Famous Greek Fathers include: Clement of Rome, Irenaeus of Lyons, Clement of Alexandria, Athanasius of Alexandria, John Chrysostom, Cyril of Alexandria the Cappadocian Fathers (Basil of Caesarea, Gregory Nazianzus, Peter of Sebaste, Gregory of Nyssa), Maximus the Confessor, and John of Damascus.