

Pope St. Gregory the Great ***3rd September***



St. Gregory the Great was a civilian official before becoming a monk, a cardinal, and finally, one of the most influential popes the Church has ever known. He was educated by the best teachers in Rome, and when he was still a young man, the emperor named him chief magistrate of Rome. He filled this role for five years but clearly had other desires on his heart than his political career. When his father died, Gregory turned his home into a monastery and became a monk. He used his inheritance to build six other monasteries in the region.

When it came time to select a new pope, the faithful unanimously selected him by popular acclaim. As pope, Gregory was filled with zeal—he worked tirelessly and his contributions profoundly shaped the life of the Church. As leader of the Church, he kept a close watch over the clergy and encouraged them towards holiness. He used papal money to ransom prisoners and to care for persecuted Jews and victims of famine and sickness. People of his day called him the father of the city of Rome, and the joy of the world. He once observed English children being sold in the Roman Forum as slaves, and the sight made him decide to send missionaries to Canterbury—this was the beginning of Christianity among the Anglo-Saxons.

Gregory is one of the four great doctors of the Church, along with St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, and St. Jerome. These four and 32 other doctors have been singled out for their ability to articulate and teach the faith.

“The proof of love is in the works,” St. Gregory said. ***“Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist.”***

Pope St. Gregory the Great, you were the monk who became one of the greatest popes ever--pray for us!