

Daily Parish Communication

February 16, 2023

Good Morning!

Parish Mission - Today's Topics:

10:00 AM ***Faculties of the Human Person, continued***

7:00 PM ***Virtues***

Men's Club meeting tonight at 6:30, Parish Hall

1. Today's Readings: [Thursday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: While the Monothelite heresy was still very active, Pope Adeodatus III did not address it actively during his papacy nor get involved in the politics surrounding it. His successor, Pope Donus, would not agree with the heresy either but also helped reconstruct churches. Neither pope was in office for very long: Adeodatus for 3 years, Donus for a little over 4 months.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~"St. Paul says, 'there must be heresies, that they also who are reprov'd may be manifest among you' (1 Cor 2:9). Meaning, that as fire is necessary to purify silver, and separate it from the dross, heresies are necessary to prove the good Christian among the bad, to separate the true from false doctrine." *St. Augustine*

~"Heretics think false things about God and call it their faith." *St. Augustine*

***St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***

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## **Popes of the 670's**

### **77. Adeodatus (II) (672-76)**

Pope Adeodatus is sometimes called Adeodatus II, because another pope, Deodatus, was also referred to Adeodatus I at times. It can be difficult to keep them all straight.

Adeodatus was born in Rome, son of Jovinian. As a young man, he joined the order of St. Benedict, referred to as the Black monks, due to the color of their habits. He became a monk of the Roman cloister of St. Erasmus on Caelian Hill. He remained a monk and a priest and was not elevated to the cardinalate. His past work with monks made him appreciate their work; he chose many monks for important offices.

When Adeodatus was elected, permission was quickly granted by the emperor and the new pope was installed April 11, 672. He was already known for his generosity, especially to the poor and pilgrims. Following that view of life, Adeodatus increased the allowance for the clergy. He gave Venice the right to choose their own doge (elected lord and head of state). He arranged repairs on the Church of St. Peter, not the basilica, and the Church of St. Erasmus at the monastery. He recognized the Abbey of St. Martin of Tours as being exempt from episcopal authorities. However, he made it clear that he was not going to get into the arguments and politics of the Monothelite heresy.

While Adeodatus took a breather from politics and heresies, the Muslims renewed their siege against the Byzantine Empire. In 673, the Emperor's fleet sailed to Egypt in an attempt to destroy the Arab fleet before it could sail into the Aegean. The main fleet was missed as it had already arrived at Rhodes. But the Byzantine navy did win a battle off the coast of Egypt.

The next year, the Arab fleet sailed up Hellespont to land at Thrace and launched a siege against the capital of Constantinople. There was a land blockade. That is when the Christian Syrian engineer, Callinicus, invented "Greek fire", a naphta-like substance. With it, he defected to the Empire and fitted the fleet with cannons which could fire this.

In 675, the Arab blockade of Constantinople continued, getting more reinforcements from Syria. At this point, the Monothelite Patriarch Constantine, newly appointed, sent a profession of his faith to the pope. Adeodatus read it and

found it unacceptable. When news came that he had rejected the patriarch's document, the pope's name was taken off all imperial documents. But that was as far as he went in addressing the continuing problem.

The following year, Constantinople was still blockaded by the Arabs. Pope Adeodatus, an old man when elected, died of natural causes on June 17. News got into the besieged city, somehow, that the old pope had died, and the new pope had been elected. Word was received from Constantinople in only two months that the emperor had given his permission for the new pope to ascend the chair of Peter.

*Source: catholic365.com*

## **78. Donus (676-78)**

Donus was another old man elected Pope. He, too, did not last very long.

A Roman, the son of Mauricius, Donus was named cardinal on 2 February 673 by Pope Adeodatus II. He was about 63 at the time. On June 17, 676, the old pope died. Donus was elected, but in keeping with tradition, he waited for the Emperor to accept the election before he was consecrated. The consecration took place November 2, 676. The Church was without an official leader for four months and seventeen days. Being as Constantinople was under siege from the Muslims at the time, it is impressive that it only took that long.

Donus immediately went about restoring several churches in Rome. He had the atrium of the old St. Peter's basilica paved with white marble. He repaired the Church of St. Euphemia and the basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

For his diocese, Donus expanded his clergy, adding twelve priests and five deacons. He also consecrated six bishops to be sent abroad.

When Pope Vitalian excommunicated Archbishop Maurus of Ravenna for declaring himself independent of Rome, a schism began. It lasted only a few years. In 671, Maurus died and Reparatus was raised to the archbishopric. The emperor gave him his pallium. And Reparatus began the long road back from schism to obedience to the Holy See. Finally, Reparatus claimed allegiance to Donus.

As Donus improved buildings in Rome, he found a Syrian monastery, the Boetianum. Within its walls lived monks who followed the Nestorian heresy. This

heresy was that Jesus had two entirely distinct natures, one divine and one human. Thus, Mary was not the mother of God, only of a man named Jesus. And the crucifixion was useless in saving man from sin, if only a man died. Donus was not about to have the whole monastery preaching this. So, he dispersed the monks amongst the other monasteries in the area and gave the monastery away.

Relations with Constantinople were conciliatory, without Donus approving the still popular Monothelite heresy. The Patriarch of Constantinople, Theodore, sent a vague letter to the new pope discussing unity. But, not including the required profession of faith, Donus did not accept it.

The emperor was fighting on two fronts. The Slavs had spent two years trying to take Thessalonica, finally failing in July of 678. The Muslims had a four-year siege of Constantinople, finally giving up in the early fall. When the emperor was sure that he had the Muslims in hand and the capital city free of its siege, he turned his attentions to theology. In August of 678, Emperor Constantine IV wrote a letter to Donus suggesting a conference to discuss the differences of opinion regarding this heresy. He addressed the letter to “the most holy and blessed archbishop of our ancient Rome and the universal Pope”. Unfortunately, it was sent too late. The pope had died on April 11. It was Pope Agatho’s responsibility from here.

Donus was buried in Old St. Peter’s Basilica. He had ruled for one year, five months and ten days.

*Source: catholic365.com*