

Daily Parish Communication

April 19, 2023

Good Morning!

Adoration following the Morning Mass till 4:00 PM today.

1. Today's Readings: [Wednesday of the Second Week of Easter | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: As we continue with our list of popes, one point from today's article about our first pope, Sergius III, should be emphasized. In regards to what is written about this pope (or any person), "These assertions are only made by bitter or ill-informed adversaries and are inconsistent with what is said of him by respectable contemporaries." How important it is that we take and use information from reliable sources!

3. Quotes of the Day:

~"Everyone who can speak the truth, yet speaks it not, will be judged by God." *St. Justin Martyr*

~"What is against truth cannot be just." *St. Augustine*

~"Our duty as Catholics is to know the truth; to live the truth; to defend the truth; to share the truth with others; and to suffer for the truth." *Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.*

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Popes of the early 900s

120. Sergius III (904-11)

The date of Sergius' birth is unknown. He was consecrated on January 29, 904. He died April 14, 911. He was a Roman of noble birth and the son of Benedict. He became a strong upholder of the party opposed to Pope Formosus; as this party was not ultimately successful, the writings of its supporters, if they ever existed, have perished. Hence, unfortunately, most of our knowledge of Sergius is derived from his opponents. Thus it is by an enemy that we are told that Sergius was made Bishop of Caere by Formosus in order that he might never become Bishop of Rome. However, he seems to have ceased to act as a bishop after the death of Formosus and was put forward as a candidate for the papacy in 898. Failing to secure election, he retired, apparently to Alberic, Count of Spoleto. Disgusted at the violent usurpation of the papal throne by Christopher, the Romans threw him into prison, and invited Sergius to take his place. Sergius at once declared the ordinations conferred by Formosus null; but that he put his two predecessors to death, and by illicit relations with Marozia had a son, who was afterwards John XI, must be regarded as highly doubtful. These assertions are only made by bitter or ill-informed adversaries and are inconsistent with what is said of him by respectable contemporaries. He protected Archbishop John of Ravenna against the Count of Istria, and confirmed the establishment of a number of new sees in England. Because he opposed the errors of the Greeks, they struck his name from the diptychs, but he showed his good sense in declaring valid the fourth marriage of the Greek emperor, Leo VI. Sergius completely restored the Lateran Basilica, but he was buried in St. Peter's.

Source: newadvent.org

121. Anastasius III (911-13)

The one hundred and twenty-third occupant of the Holy See was elected in September, 911. He was a Roman, being the son of a certain Lucian. His reign was marked with moderation.

During the short reign of Anastasius, two events occurred which would change the face of Europe. In the early 900s, the Saracens, who were already occupying

Calabria, fortified a base and town on the Garigliano River, between Rome and Naples. It overlooked the Tyrrhenian Sea. From there, the Saracens were befriending the small principalities in the area, encouraging friendships and conversions to the Muslim faith. Within a few years of the death of this current pope, battles began there.

Meanwhile, Norsemen from Scandinavia had invaded the Seine River valley of West Francia (France) about the same time. By 911, they were a formidable foe. The commander of the northern forces was a man named Rollo. That year, the Norsemen sailed up the river to Chartres and attacked. Richard of Burgundy defended the city. The bishop led a mob of peasants and started chasing the invaders. King Charles the Simple and his cavalry also started to chase them. The insurgents got to their ships but realized that they did not have enough time to load all the soldiers onboard. As an alternative, they took the livestock off the boats and slaughtered them, leaving the carcasses in view. Charles' soldiers and horses were intimidated by the sight and smells. Negotiations began. In the end, King Charles gifted the attackers land between the mouth of the Seine and what would become Rouen in exchange for Rollo agreeing to end his war, swear allegiance to Charles, convert to Christianity and pledge to defend the Seine's estuary from further Viking attack. Thus, was Normandy formed.

Elsewhere, as Germany became more Catholic, more dioceses were formed. The only paperwork we have of Anastasius is that which showed the granting of privileges to these dioceses.

He succeeded Sergius III (904-911), and reigned, at most, about two years and two months.

Source: newadvent.org

122. Lando (913-14)

A native of the Sabina, and the son of Taino, Lando was elected pope seemingly in July or August, 913; d. in February or March, 914, after a reign of a little over six months. Nothing more is known of him except that he was a worthy man and granted a privilege to a church in his native Sabina.

Source: catholic.org