

May 8, 2023

Good Monday Morning!

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

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: As we move forward with our history of the popes, the Abbey of Cluny has been mentioned several times. So a little background on this may prove helpful.

Cluny is the name of the great Benedictine monastery that was founded around 910 by Duke William of Aquitaine. The Duke wanted this monastery to be free from any noble, royal, or ecclesiastical control except that of the Pope. As was the custom in regards to the founding of monasteries during the Middle Ages, the Duke founded this monastery to pray for him and his family, as well as to serve as penance for a murder he had committed.

The early abbots of Cluny were holy men and are saints of the Church. These include St. Berno, St. Odo, St. Odilo, St. Mayeul or Mailos, St. Hugh and Blessed Peter the Venerable.

The single most unique aspect of Cluny was that the Pope was its protector. Bishops and royalty could not interfere with its administration. Because of these exemptions, over time Cluny grew in wealth, property and members. This eventually led to its downfall as money and power corrupt those in charge.

3. Quotes of the Day: Papal thoughts....

~"The preaching of the faith has lost nothing of its relevance in our times. The Church has a sacred duty to proclaim it without any whittling-down, just as Christ revealed it, and no consideration of time or circumstance can lessen the strictness of this obligation." *Pope Pius XII*

~"The sacred deposit of truth must be safeguarded. It is absolutely vital that the Church never for an instant lose sight of the holy patrimony of truth inherited from the Fathers ... This is the certain and unchangeable doctrine to which the faithful owe obedience." *Pope John XXIII*

~"Under no circumstances can we conceive of the possibility of change, of evolution, or of any modification in matters of faith. The Creed remains always the same." *Pope Paul VI*

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

--

Linda McCormick
St. Joseph Catholic Church & School
1200 Cornelia Road
Anderson, SC 29621

Phone: (864) 225-5341
Fax: (864) 225-6432

Popes of the early 1000s, part 2

143. Sergius IV (1009-12)

Sergius' date of birth is unknown. He was consecrated about 31 July, 1009 and died on 12 May, 1012. Pietro Martino Buccaporc, nicknamed Peter Pig's Snout (*Bucca Porci*) was the son of Peter the Shoemaker, of the ninth region of Rome (*Pina*), and before he became Sergius IV had been bishop of Albano (1004-9). He checked the power of the *Patricius*, John Crescentius, who dominated Rome by strengthening the party in favor of the Germans. Little is known of the doings of Sergius except that by grants of privilege, the papyrus originals of some of which still exist, he exempted several monasteries from episcopal jurisdiction. Though his own temporal power was small, various nobles placed their lands under his protection. He showed himself a great friend of the poor in a time of famine, and was buried in the Lateran Basilica.

Source: newadvent.org

144. Benedict VIII (1012-24)

Theophylact's date of birth is unknown. The family had already produced three popes: John XI, and John XII, and Benedict VII. d. 9 April, 1024. The first of the Tusculan popes, being the son of Gregory, Count of Tusculum, and Maria, and brother of John XIX, he was, though a layman, imposed on the chair of Peter by force (18 May, 1012). Nevertheless, dislodging a rival, he became a good and strong ruler. On the 14th of February, 1014, he crowned the German king, Henry II, emperor, and ever kept friendly with him. The peace of Italy was promoted by his subjugating the Crescentii, defeating the Saracens, and allying himself with the Normans, who appeared in its southern parts in his time. Going to Germany, he consecrated the cathedral of Bamberg, visited the monastery of Fulda, and obtained from Henry a charter confirmatory of the donations of Charlemagne and Otho. To restrain the vices of clerical incontinence and simony, he held, with the emperor, an important synod at Pavia, and supported the reformation which was being effected by the great monastery of Cluny. To further the interest of peace, he encouraged the "Truce of God" and countenanced the ecclesiastical advancement of Gauzlin, the natural brother of Robert the Pious, King of France. This he did because, though illegitimate, Gauzlin was a good man, and his loyal brother was very desirous of his promotion. Benedict VIII was one of the many popes who were called upon to intervene in the

interminable strife for precedence between the Patriarchs of Grado and of Aquileia. In 1022 he received Ethelnoth of Canterbury "with great worship and very honorably hallowed him archbishop", and reinstated in his position Leofwine, Abbot of Ely. A friend of St. Odilo, Abbot of Cluny, and one of the few popes of the Middle Ages who was at once powerful at home and great abroad, Benedict VIII has, on seemingly insufficient grounds, been accused of avarice.

Source: newadvent.org

145. John XIX (1024-32)

Romanus of Tusculum was the brother of Pope Benedict VIII. While his brother was on the throne of Peter, Romanus, a layman, was both counsel and senator of Rome, wielding much power. When Benedict died in April 1024, Romanus may have paid his way onto the empty throne. However, he was not a cleric, even a lesser cleric. On his election day, Romanus needed to be ordained to all seven clerical levels in order to be consecrated a bishop. He took the name John XIX at his papal consecration.

Obviously, he had no ecclesiastical knowledge or experience. In order to avoid any anti-popes or riots, and to impress the citizens of Rome, the new pope spent lavishly on celebrations and public improvements.

Soon after Pope John's election, he received ambassadors from the Byzantine Emperor Basil II. Knowing the ex-counsel's penchant for bribes, the ambassadors came with large amounts of gifts and a request from the Patriarch of Constantinople, Eustathius. He wanted Rome to acknowledge his title of ecumenical bishop, basically raising him to the level of the pope, but for the Eastern Church. John did not seem to have any problem with that, considering all the gifts. Negotiations began in secret. But word got out and there was an outcry. John pulled out of negotiations. But he kept the bribe money.

In 1025, John sent a crown and his blessings to the new king, Boreslaw of Poland.

John became a patron of the famous musician Guido of Arezzo. He invited Guido to Rome to discuss the new musical notation he had invented. He kept him there to teach the Benedictines and the Roman clergy.

The Holy Roman Emperor and king of Germany, Henry II died three months after Pope Benedict. The new king was Conrad, a Frank. John supported him from the beginning. In 1027, Conrad crossed the Alps, coming to Rome to be crowned emperor on Easter.

Also coming to the celebrations were King Rudolph III of Burgundy and Cnut the Great of Denmark and England. Cnut, a recent convert to Christianity, wanted to both repent of his sins and improve conditions for the pilgrims along the route to Rome (they were charged tolls to walk along the roads in different areas). In this setting, he and Rudolph negotiated a cheaper way for pilgrims to travel. The end result was witnessed by dozens of archbishops, bishops, priests and nobles.

A week later, John conducted a synod at the Lateran. He declared the Patriarch of Aquelia the only patriarch of Italy, giving him primacy over all other bishops, much to the chagrin of the Patriarch of Grado, who was demoted to bishop. Two years later, John changed his mind and gave the patriarchy back to Grado. He also gave the archbishop of Bari certain allowances. This was part of a conciliatory agreement with Patriarch Eustathius. This way, the Byzantine Rite could be allowed in exchange for the establishment of the Latin Rite in Constantinople. But the Patriarch still didn't get his title.

Like other recent popes, John took Cluny Abbey under his protection in spite of the objections of the local bishop. He tried to talk Abbot Odilo into accepting the bishopric of Lyons. Odilo declined and John was not pleased. But he died before he could carry out any plan.

Under John XIX, the feast of St. Martial of Limoges was raised to the level of Apostle. There was written evidence that Marital had traveled with some Apostles.

It appears that John began the tradition of indulgences in exchange for alms.

He died in either October or November of 1032. Some say he died naturally. The rumor that he was attacked by angry peasants has no evidence. His young nephew was the next pope.

Source: catholic365.com