

June 7, 2023

Good Morning!

Adoration following the morning Mass till 4:00 PM

VBS Planning Meeting, Office at 1:00 PM

Tomorrow we will be posting the Novena to the Sacred Heart for the next 9 days. Today's meditation will help prepare your work with the Novena.

1. Today's Readings: [Wednesday of the Ninth Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)
2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: We continue with pope # 165, Innocent II. He was praised by all, especially by St. Bernard, as a man of irreproachable character. He was elected the same day as an antipope but through various confirmations retained the title and reign as pope.
3. Mediation of the Day: The Promises Made to Those Who Practice Devotion to the Sacred Heart, *Antonio Cardinal Bacci*

~ When Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and commanded her to propagate the worship of His Sacred Heart, He promised very special blessings to those who would be truly devoted to His Sacred Heart and spread this devotion among others. "I will give them all the graces necessary for their state in life... consolation in all their troubles... peace in their families... blessings on all their undertakings." These promises are an inducement to us to love Jesus and to spread devotion to His Sacred Heart. Our Divine Saviour is not content with having loved us so much during His mortal life and given us His Precious Blood, the Blessed Eucharist, and His most holy Mother for our salvation. He sees that His infinite love is not returned as it ought to be and seems to exercise a gentle pressure in order to compel us to love Him. "Behold this Heart which has so loved men that It spared nothing... to prove to them Its love. And in return I receive from the greater part of men nothing but ingratitude, by the contempt, irreverence, sacrileges and coldness with which they treat Me in this Sacrament of Love." "I thirst, I burn with a consuming desire for men's love, and I find none to quench this thirst, according to My wish, by making any return of love." Who could fail to feel the force of this appeal?

~ The promises made by Jesus to those who are truly devoted to His Sacred heart are a new proof of His infinite love and mercy. However, if anyone were to cultivate devotion to the Sacred Heart merely to gain His benefits, and to think more of his own spiritual and temporal advantage than of Jesus, he would display a niggardly spirit quite unworthy of Our Lord's favour. The worship of the Sacred Heart could degenerate into a kind of utilitarian egoism undeserving of the name of devotion. Pious practices could become cold and formal, and degenerate into sentimentality tinged with superstition. There is nothing to prevent us asking the Sacred Heart for graces and favours which we

Daily Parish Communication

need. In fact we should do so, for it is He Who has made these promises to us and is eager to fulfil them because He loves us. But we should be generous with Jesus in return for His infinite generosity towards us. We should love Him because He is so worthy of our love. Our love should be expressed not only in prayers and outward forms but in a deep personal transformation which will make us more like Jesus. True love transforms and unites two hearts. Let us love Jesus and we shall live with Jesus, through Jesus, and in Jesus. His love will effect in us the miracle which it produces in St. Paul. "To me to live is Christ." (I Phil. 1, 21)

~ Sweet Heart of Jesus, make me love You more and more.

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 mid 1100s, part 1

165. Innocent II (1130-43)

Innocent II was born Gregory. He was elected February 4, 1130, was a native of Rome and belonged to the ancient family of the Guidoni.

The youthful Gregory became canon of the Lateran and later Abbot of Sts. Nicholas and Primitivus. He was made Cardinal-Deacon by Paschal II, and as such shared the exile of Gelasius II in France, together with his later rival, the Cardinal-Deacon Pietro Pierleone. Under Callistus II Gregory was sent to Germany (1119) and was engaged in drawing up the Concordat of Worms in 1122.

On 14 Feb., 1130, the morning following the death of Honorius II, the cardinal-bishops held an election and Gregory was chosen as his successor, taking the name of Innocent II; three hours later Pietro Pierleone was elected by the other cardinals and took the name of Anacletus II. Both received episcopal consecration 23 Feb. Innocent II secured the support of Louis VI, and in a synod at Etampes the assembled bishops acknowledged his authority. This was also done by other bishops gathered at Puy-en-Velay through St. Hugh of Grenoble. The pope went to the Abbey of Cluny, then attended another meeting of bishops, November, 1130, at Clermont; they also promised obedience and enacted a number of disciplinary canons.

Through the activity of St. Norbert of Magdeburg and others, the election of Innocent was ratified at a synod assembled at Würzburg at the request of the German king, and here the king and his princes promised allegiance. In October, he opened the great synod at Reims, and crowned the young prince of France, later Louis VII. At this synod England, Castile, and Aragon were represented; St. Bernard and St. Norbert attended and several salutary canons were enacted. The following year he again entered Rome, and on 4 June crowned Lothair emperor at the Lateran. On the departure of the emperor, Innocent also left and went to Pisa, since the antipope still held sway in Rome. At Pisa a great synod was held in 1135. In the spring of 1137 Emperor Lothair, in answer to the repeated entreaties of the pope, began his march to Rome. The papal and imperial troops met at Bari, 30 May, 1137, and the pope was again conducted into Rome. Anacletus still held a part of the city but died 25 Jan., 1138. Another antipope was chosen, who called

himself Victor IV, but he, urged especially by the prayers of St. Bernard, soon submitted, and Innocent found himself in undisturbed possession of the city and of the papacy.

To remove the remnants and evil consequences of the schism, Innocent II called the Tenth Ecumenical Council, the Second of the Lateran. It began its sessions on 4 April, 1139. One thousand bishops and other prelates are said to have been present. The official acts of Anacletus II were declared null and void, the bishops and priests ordained by him were with few exceptions deposed, and the heretical tenets of Pierre de Bruys were condemned. Thirty canons were made against simony, incontinence, extravagance in dress among the clergy, etc. In 1139 St. Malachy left Ireland to visit the shrine of the Apostles. Innocent received him with great honors and made him papal legate for all Ireland, but would not grant him permission to resign his see in order to join the community of St. Bernard at Clairvaux.

After the death of Alberic, Archbishop of Bourges, in 1141, Louis VII of France wanted to secure the nomination of a man of his own choice whom the chapter did not consider the fit person. They chose Pierre de La Châtre, whereupon Louis refused to ratify the election. The bishop-elect in person brought the matter to Rome, and Innocent, finding after due examination that the election had been made according to the requirements of ecclesiastical law, confirmed it and himself gave the episcopal consecration. When Pierre returned to France, Louis would not allow him to enter his diocese. After useless negotiations Innocent placed France under interdict. Only during the reign of the next pope was the interdict removed and peace restored.

Several minor synods were held during the last few years of the life of Innocent. During his pontificate Innocent II enrolled among the canonized saints of the Church: St. Godehard, St. Hugo, and St. Sturm. To St. Norbert, the founder of the Premonstratensians, he granted in 1131 a document authorizing him to introduce his rule at the cathedral of Magdeburg; to St. Bernard he in 1140 gave the church of Sts. Vincent and Anastasius near Rome; he also granted many privileges to others. According to the "Liber Pontificalis" he ordained eighteen deacons, twenty priests, and seventy bishops.

He was buried in St. John Lateran, but seven years later was transferred to Santa Maria in Trastevere. Innocent II is praised by all, especially by St. Bernard, as a man of irreproachable character. The policy of Innocent is characterized in one of his letters: "If the sacred authority of the popes and the imperial power are imbued with mutual love, we must thank God in all humility, since then only can peace and harmony exist among Christian peoples. For there is nothing so sublime as the papacy nor so exalted as the imperial throne".

Source: excerpted from newadvent.org