DOCTORES ECCLESIAE

The Doctors of the Church

Saints whose writings and teaching have so enriched the whole Church that she honors them as her "teachers." In the traditional Mass they are honored with their own Gospel — "You are the salt of the earth … the light of the world" — and the Credo is said on their feasts.

"In medio Ecclesiae aperuit os eius" — In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth. — Introit for Doctors



Michael Pacher, Altarpiece of the Church Fathers, c. 1483 — Sts. Jerome, Augustine, Gregory the Great and Ambrose · Alte Pinakothek, Munich

I · EMINENS DOCTRINA	II · INSIGNIS VITAE SANCTITAS	III · ECCLESIAE DECLARATIO
Eminent learning in the faith	Outstanding holiness of life	Proclamation by the Pope or a council

The Eight Great Doctors

Latin, named 1298 by Boniface VIII · Greek, named 1568 by St. Pius V

LATIN · 340–397
St. Ambrose
Bishop of Milan, who baptized Augustine

LATIN · 354–430
St. Augustine
Bishop of Hippo, Doctor of Grace

LATIN · c. 347–420
St. Jerome
Translator of the Vulgate Bible

LATIN · c. 540–604
St. Gregory the Great
Pope; father of the liturgy and chant

GREEK · c. 296–373
St. Athanasius
Champion of Nicaea against Arius

GREEK · c. 330–379
St. Basil the Great
Father of Eastern monasticism

GREEK · c. 329–390
St. Gregory Nazianzen
"The Theologian" of the Trinity

GREEK · c. 347–407
St. John Chrysostom
"Golden Mouth," patron of preachers

Doctors of the Traditional Calendar

thirty in all by 1959 · year proclaimed in gold

St. Thomas Aquinas 1567 *The Angelic Doctor · 1225–1274*	**St. Bonaventure** 1588 *The Seraphic Doctor · 1221–1274*	**St. Anselm** 1720 *Archbishop of Canterbury · 1033–1109*
St. Isidore of Seville 1722 *Schoolmaster of the Middle Ages · c. 560–636*	**St. Peter Chrysologus** 1729 *"Golden-worded" · c. 380–450*	**St. Leo the Great** 1754 *Pope, Tome to Chalcedon · c. 400–461*
St. Peter Damian 1828 *Cardinal and reformer · 1007–1072*	**St. Bernard of Clairvaux** 1830 *The Mellifluous Doctor · 1090–1153*	**St. Hilary of Poitiers** 1851 *Hammer of the Arians · c. 310–367*
St. Alphonsus Liguori 1871 *Doctor of moral theology · 1696–1787*	**St. Francis de Sales** 1877 *The Doctor of Charity · 1567–1622*	**St. Cyril of Alexandria** 1883 *Defender of the Theotokos · c. 376–444*
St. Cyril of Jerusalem 1883 *Catechetical Lectures · c. 313–386*	**St. John Damascene** 1890 *Defender of holy images · c. 675–749*	**St. Bede the Venerable** 1899 *Father of English history · c. 673–735*
St. Ephrem the Syrian 1920 *Harp of the Holy Ghost · c. 306–373*	**St. Peter Canisius** 1925 *Second Apostle of Germany · 1521–1597*	**St. John of the Cross** 1926 *The Mystical Doctor · 1542–1591*
St. Robert Bellarmine 1931 *Cardinal and catechist · 1542–1621*	**St. Albert the Great** 1931 *The Universal Doctor · c. 1200–1280*	**St. Anthony of Padua** 1946 *The Evangelical Doctor · 1195–1231*
St. Lawrence of Brindisi 1959 *The Apostolic Doctor · 1559–1619*		

Proclaimed Since 1970

including the first women Doctors

St. Teresa of Ávila 1970 *Carmelite reformer · 1515–1582*	**St. Catherine of Siena** 1970 *Dominican mystic · 1347–1380*	**St. Thérèse of Lisieux** 1997 *The Little Way · 1873–1897*	**St. John of Ávila** 2012 *Apostle of Andalusia · 1499–1569*
St. Hildegard of Bingen 2012 *Benedictine abbess · 1098–1179*	**St. Gregory of Narek** 2015 *Armenian monk-poet · c. 950–1003*	**St. Irenaeus of Lyons** 2022 *Doctor of Unity · c. 130–202*	**St. John Henry Newman** 2025 *Cardinal and convert · 1801–1890*