

Tridentine Community News

February 15, 2026 – Quinquagésima Sunday

Doctors of the Church: Theological Authority in Service of the Magisterium Part 1 of 2

By James Murphy

In Catholic theology, a Doctor of the Church is a canonized saint whose teaching is recognized as exceptionally holy, orthodox, and enduringly valuable for understanding the faith. The Church traditionally requires eminent doctrine, outstanding sanctity of life, and a formal papal declaration for this title. Doctors are raised up in times of need to explain Scripture, defend doctrine, and guide the faithful, and while they are not infallible in every opinion, their teachings are considered especially trustworthy and fruitful when read in harmony with the Church. The title is not automatic or equal to dogma, but a recognition by the Pope of a saint's lasting theological and spiritual contribution to the whole Church. The Church currently has 38 doctors; here is a list of them in chronological order according to birth year.

1. St. Irenaeus of Lyons (AD 130–202) – Early defender of apostolic tradition and unity against Gnostic heresies.

2. St. Athanasius of Alexandria (AD 296–373) – Tireless defender of Christ's full divinity against Arianism.

3. St. Ephrem the Syrian (AD 306–373) – Poet-theologian who taught doctrine through hymns and biblical poetry.

4. St. Hilary of Poitiers (AD 310–367) – Known as the “Athanasius of the West” for defending the Trinity.

5. St. Cyril of Jerusalem (AD 313–386) – Author of catechetical lectures explaining the sacraments and creed.

6. St. Gregory of Nazianzus (AD 329–390) – Brilliant theologian whose writings clarified Trinitarian doctrine.

7. St. Basil the Great (AD 330–379) – Founder of Eastern monasticism and defender of orthodox faith.

8. St. Gregory of Nyssa (AD 335–395) – Mystic theologian who explored God's infinite nature and human transformation.

9. St. Ambrose of Milan (AD 339–397) – Influential bishop who shaped Church authority and converted St. Augustine.

10. St. Jerome (AD 347–420) – Translator of the Bible into Latin, producing the Vulgate.

11. St. John Chrysostom (AD 347–407) – Renowned preacher whose eloquence earned him the title “Golden Mouth.”

12. St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354–430) – One of the greatest Christian theologians, shaping Western doctrine profoundly.

13. St. Cyril of Alexandria (AD 376–444) – Defender of Christ's unity and Mary as Theotokos.

14. St. Leo the Great (AD 400–461) – Pope who articulated orthodox Christology and strengthened papal authority.

15. St. Peter Chrysologus (AD 406–450) – Master preacher known for concise and doctrinally rich sermons.

16. St. Fulgentius of Ruspe (AD 462–533) – Defender of Augustinian theology on grace and the Trinity.

17. St. Gregory the Great (AD 540–604) – Pope who reformed liturgy and advanced missionary work.

18. St. Isidore of Seville (AD 560–636) – Encyclopedic scholar preserving classical and Christian learning.

19. St. Bede the Venerable (AD 673–735) – Historian and biblical scholar of early English Christianity.

20. St. John of Damascus (AD 675–749) – Defender of sacred images and synthesizer of Eastern theology.

21. St. Gregory of Narek (AD 951–1003) – Armenian mystic whose prayers express deep repentance and trust in God.

22. St. Peter Damian (AD 1007–1072) – Church reformer who fought clerical corruption and moral laxity.

23. St. Anselm of Canterbury (AD 1033–1109) – Father of scholastic theology and author of the ontological argument.

24. St. Bernard of Clairvaux (AD 1090–1153) – Mystic and preacher who shaped medieval spirituality and Marian devotion.

25. St. Hildegard of Bingen (AD 1098–1179) – Visionary mystic, theologian, and composer.



Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 02/17 7:00 PM: Low Requiem Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Daily Mass for the Dead)

Wed. 02/18 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Ash Wednesday)

Wed. 02/18: 8:00 AM & 12:00 Noon Low Mass, 7:00 PM High Mass at *St. Joseph Shrine* (Ash Wednesday)