St. John of the Cross
Personal: Western mystic
Combined mysticism with the theology and philosophy of Aquinas
Became a Carmelite monk in 1563
Ordained a priest in 1567
Organized the Discalced Carmelites in 1568
Imprisoned for monastic reform 1576-1577
Named in 1926 by Benedict XV
Place and dates: 1542-1591
Writings: Light of the Sinner: a mystical poem, Dark Night of the Soul: describes the soul's progress in union with God

St. Lawrence of Brindisi
Personal: Capuchin
Worked for the conversion of the Jews
Confronted the rise of Lutheranism
Organized Catholic princes against Turkish invasion
Named in 1595 by John XXIII
Place and dates: 1559-1619
Writings: Sermons, A commentary on Genesis, Writings against Lutheranism

St. Leo the Great
Personal: Pope, 440-461
Confirmed the doctrine of the incarnation (Council of Chalcedon, 451)
Held the doctrinal primacy of Rome
Persuaded Attila the Hun not to invade Rome
Named in 1754 by Benedict XIV
Place and dates: 461
Writings: 143 surviving letters, 96 sermons

St. Peter Canisius
Personal: Jesuit
Second great Apostle of Germany
Leader, Counter-Reformation
Named in 1621 by Pius V
Place and dates: 1521-1597
Writings: Catechism (1560): instructed the faithful to defend their Faith

St. Peter Chrysologus
Personal: Called chrysologus (golden-mouthed) because of exceptional preaching eloquence
Archbishop of Ravenna, 433-450
Named in 1729 by Benedict XIII
Place and dates: 406-450
Writings: Many sermons survive

St. Peter Damian
Personal: Benedictine monk
Cardinal and Bishop of Ostia
Ecclesiastical statesman and reformer
Named in 1828 by Leo XII
Place and dates: 1007-1072
Writings: Notable poet
Wrote reforms for popes, clergy, monks

St. Robert Bellarmine
Personal: Jesuit theologian
Cardinal archbishop of Capua
Revision of the Vulgate (1592)
Leader of the Counter Reformation
Named in 1931 by Pius XI
Place and dates: 1542-1621
Writings: Disputations on the Controversies of the Christian Faith: (1568-93)

St. Teresa of Avila
Personal: Western mystic
Foundress of the Order of Discalced Carmelites
Entered the convent in 1535
Founded the new order in 1562
Worked with the aid of St. John of the Cross, Spanish mystic and Doctor of the Church
Named in 1570 by Pope Paul VI
Place and dates: 1515-1582
Writings: The Way of Perfection: (1565) advice to her nuns, The Interior Castle: (1577) The Foundations: (1573-1582) the origins of the Discalced Carmelites

St. Therese of Lisieux
Personal: Carmelite Nun; Sister Theresa of the Child Jesus
Also known as "The Little Flower of Jesus"
Canonized: May 17, 1925
Created a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II, October 19, 1997
The third woman among 33 Doctors
Place and dates: Born: Alencon, France, January 2, 1873
Died: Lisieux, France, September 30, 1897
Writings: Autobiography of a Saint: Letter and Spiritual Counsels

St. Thomas Aquinas
Personal: Theologian
Named in 1568 by Pius V
Italian philosopher
Educated at Monte Cassino
Ordained a priest in 1250
Advisor and lecturer to the papal court, 1259-1268
Place and dates: 1225-1274
Writings: Eighty works are ascribed to him

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Doctors of the Church

St. Albert the Great
Personal: Bishop of Ratisbon, 1260-1293
Introduced Greek and Arabic science and philosophy into the medieval world
Dominican, Order of Preachers
Teacher of Thomas Aquinas
Named in 1932 by Pius XI
Place and dates: 1206-1280
Writings: Summa Theologica (1270): attempted to reconcile Aristotelianism and Christianity, Sentences: a commentary on Peter the Lombard, De Unitate Intellectus: against the Averroists

St. Alphonsus Liguori
Personal: Founded the Redemptorist Order in 1732
Bishop of St. Agatha, 1756-1775
Named in 1871 by Pius IX
Place and dates: 1696-1787
Writings: Moral Theology
Glories of Mary: (1750)

St. Ambrose
Personal: Bishop of Milan (374)
Defended the churches of Milan against Arianism
Friend of Monica, mother of Augustine, and finally brought Augustine into the Church
Place and dates: (Tier, now in Germany) 340?-397

St. Anselm
Personal: Benedictine monk
Theologian
Philosopher: proposed famous argument for existence of God
Archbishop of Canterbury, 1093-1100
Named in 1720 by Clement XI
Place and dates: 1033-1109
Writings: Monologium (1077): God as highest being and His attributes, Proslogium (1078): Faith seeking understanding, Cur Deus Homo (1093): On the Incarnation and crucifixion

St. Anthony of Padua
Personal: Franciscan monk
Theologian
Exceptional intellectual and oratorical gifts
Named in 1946 by Pius XII
Place and dates: 1195-1231
Writings: Lector in theology: taught at Bologna, Montpellier, and Toulouse

St. Athanasius
Personal: Eastern theologian
Named in 1568 by Pius V
Place and dates: 293-373

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St. Augustine

Personal: Son of Monica (332?-387)
Born a pagan
Converted in 387 and baptized by Ambrose
Ordained a priest in 391
Bishop of Hippo (395)

Committed Manichean heresy (conflict of Good and Evil)

Place and dates: (Numidia, now Algeria) 354-430

Writings: Confessions (c. 400); his autobiography, The City of God (413-426); great Christian apologia; a theological philosophy of history, Retractions (428); final verdict of earlier works, Epistles (386-429), On Free Will (388-395), On Christian Doctrine (397), On Baptism: Against the Donatists (400)
On the Trinity (400-416), On Nature and Grace (415), Homilies

St. Basil the Great

Personal: Brother of Gregory of Nyssa and a friend of Gregory of Nazianzus
Patriarch of Eastern monasticism
Wrote a rule of the monastic way of life
Founded the Basilian monks (360)
Bishop of Caesarea (370)

Place and dates: (Caesarea Mazaca) 329?-379


St. Bede, the Venerable

Personal: English Benedictine monk
Prolific writer
Named in 1877 by Pius IX

Place and dates: (St Albans) 673-735

Writings: Ecclesiastical History of the English People (731)
On the Reckoning of Time (725), Historia Abbatum (725)

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Personal: Cistercian monk

Preacher of the Second Crusade
Founded over 90 monasteries
Named in 1567 by Pius V

Place and dates: (1090)


St. Catherine of Siena

Personal: Western mystic

Joined the Dominican Order in 1353
Convinced Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from Avignon
Noted for works of charity and unity in the Church
Named in 1709 by Pope Paul VI

Place and dates: 1347-1380

Writings: Letters on spiritual matters, Dialogue: her ideals of reform and repentance

St. Cyril of Alexandria

Personal: Patriarch of Alexandria in 412
Leader of the Council of Ephesus, 431
Instrumental in condemning Nestorianism

Place and dates: (Alexandria) 376-444

Writings: Against Nestorius, Against Julian the Apostle, Prolific writer

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Personal: Bishop of Jerusalem in 351

Embroiled in controversy over episcopal duties

Place and dates: (Jerusalem) 315?-387?

Writings: 23 Treatises: addressed to catechumens and newly baptized

St. Ephraem the Syrian

Personal: Deacon, monk

Noted for his defense of the Church, the mysteries of Our Lord and the honor of the Virgin Mary,
Named in 1970 by Pope Paul VI

Place and dates: (Nasr, Syria) 306?-373

Writings: Wrote exegetical works and hymns

St. Francis de Sales

Personal: Named in 1877 by Pius IX

Bishop of Genova, 1602

Place and dates: (Rome) 354-395, in Rome

Writings: The Vulgate: translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin, 383-384, in Rome

St. Gregory Nazianzus

Personal: Bishop of Sasima (371)

Took charge of the Nicene congregation of Constantinople where he delivered five discourses on the Trinity that earned him fame as "The Theologian"

Place and dates: (Nasr, Syria) 329?-389

Writings: Philokalia (Love of the Beautiful): an anthology of the writings of Origen

St. Gregory the Great

Personal: Prefect of Rome in 570

Became a monk in 575

Elected pope (r. 590-604)

Enhanced prestige of the papacy

Upheld Rome's traditional claims of church primacy over the patriarch of Constantinople

Introduced liturgical reforms and Gregorian chant

Extensive pastoral activity.

Place and dates: (Rome) 540?-604

Writings: Moralia: a commentary on the Book of Job, Pastoral Care, Dialogues: legends of saints of his own time

St. Hilary of Poitiers

Personal: Named in 353

Bishop of Poitiers, 353

Defended the decrees of the Council of Nicaea
Named in 1877 by Pius IX

Place and dates: 315?-368?

Writings: De Trinitate: against the Arians, De Synodi,
Commentary of the Psalms, Commentary of Matthew's Gospel

St. Isidore of Seville

Personal: Encyclopedic knowledge

Archbishop of Seville
Conversion of Visigoths
Organizing the church in Spain
Named in 1722 by Innocent XIII

Place and dates: 560?-636?

Writings: De Natura Rerum
Etymologies: an encyclopedia
Chronica Majora: a compilation from church historians
Biographies, A summary of Christian doctrine

St. Jerome

Personal: Biblical scholar

Ordained a priest in 386

Secretary to Pope Damasus I in 382

Confronted many heresies, especially Pelagianism

Place and dates: (Stridon, present day Slovenia) 345?-419

Writings: The Vulgate: translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin, 383-384, in Rome

St. John Chrysostom

Personal: Ordained a priest in 386

Greatest orator of the early Church
Patriarch of Constantinople in 398

Place and dates: (Antioch, Syria) 349?-407

Writings: On the Priesthood, Homilies. Wrote commentaries, epistles, treatises, and liturgies

St. John Damascene

Personal: Financial officer to Saracen caliph

Resigned in 700

Entered a monastery and ordained a priest

Opposed the Iconoclasts

Place and dates: (Damascus, Syria) 675-749

Writings: Source of Knowledge: three part text of dogmatic theology in the early Greek church; contains a complete theological system based on the early Greek fathers and synods of 4th-7th centuries

St. John of the-cross

Personal: Spanish mystic

Born in 1542

Place and dates: (Jerez de la Frontera, Spain) 1542-1588

Writings: Spiritual Maxims of the Holy Cross

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