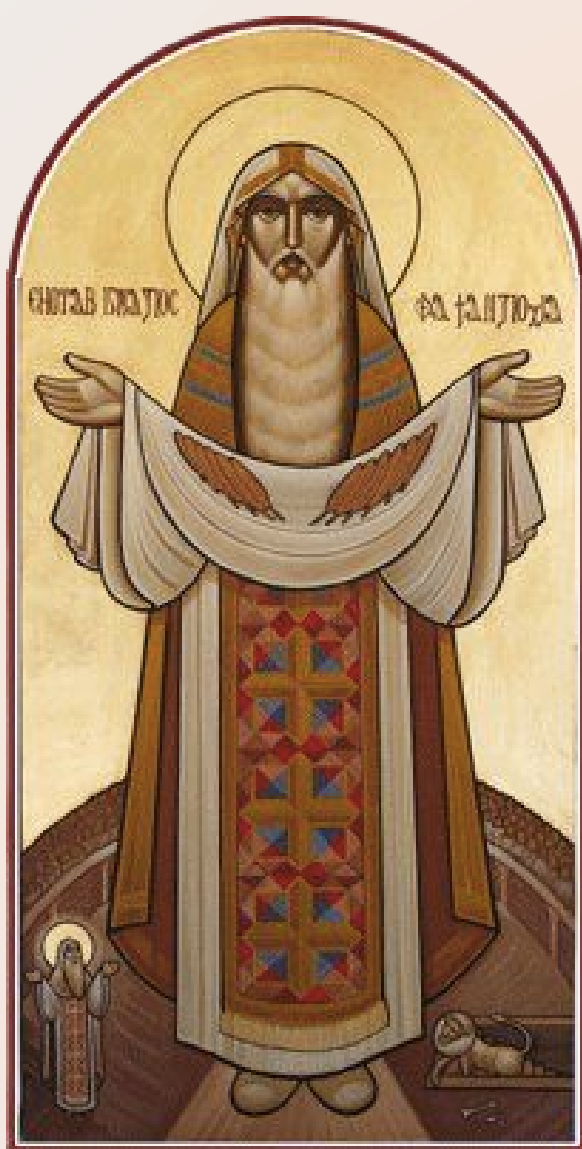


# Apostolic Fathers

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## St. Ignatius of Antioch

- Born 30-35 AD as pagan
- Disciple of St. John
- Believed to be the child that Christ carried and showed the people as example of humility (Mat 18:2-4)
- 2nd Bishop of Antioch
- Letters were excellent, but later became controversial as Arians attempted to change their content.
- Martyred by being put in a lion's pit for people's entertainment.



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## Theology

- The idea of divine “economy” in the universe is the core of Ignatius’ theology
- God wishes to deliver the world and humanity from the control of the devil

## Christology

- Taught of the one true God with nature unchanged
- Strongly attacked Docetism
- Christology was founded by St Paul, but influenced and enriched by the theology of St John.

## His Mysticism (spiritual understandings)

- The true disciple of Christ is he who is ready to sacrifice his life for Him

## His Understanding of the Church

- The Church is called “the place of sacrifice”
- Speaks about the mystery of the Eucharist as well as calling it “the medicine of immortality, the antidote against death, the everlasting life in Jesus Christ” (Eph. 20:2).
- He is the first to use the term “Catholic [universal] Church”
- Talks about importance and role of Bishop

## Main Writings

- Wrote that dogma and Christian doctrines are not a philosophy, but a practical life which believers examine in their life.
- Never quoted the Old Testament
- Strong eschatological attitude in writings

# Apostolic Fathers

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## St. Clement of Rome

- Lived 35-99 AD
  - Disciple of the Apostles Paul and Peter
  - Was the same person mentioned by St. Paul, as one of his faithful fellow workers in Philippi (Phil. 4:3).
  - 4th bishop of Rome
- In the 1st century, a group of youth rebelled against the clergy, believing they were wiser. St. Clement sent an Epistle to them in Corinth full of wisdom, modesty and love.
  - For the first time we hear about the Apostolic Succession in his writing.
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## St. Polycarp of Smyrna

- Lived 69-155 AD
- His name means "much fruit" in Greek
- St. Irenaeus, Tertullian and St. Jerome record that he had been a disciple of St. John the Apostle
- Appointed a bishop of Smyrna by St. John
- Spent most of his life fighting heretics such as the Marcionites and Valentinians
- He gathered St Ignatius' letters and passed them onto others.
- Arrested during a public pagan festival, and was burnt to death because he refused to deny his faith.

