



# Review

- Describe briefly how Patrick, a 16 year old nominal Christian, ended up going to Ireland as an evangelist.
  - He was kidnapped by Irish raiders and sold into slavery in Ireland.
  - After a number of years he escaped and returned home.
  - Upon having a dream that the Irish needed him, he returned – this time as an evangelist.
- Who were Patrick's biggest opponents as he sought to evangelize Ireland?
  - Pagan druids
- What title is often conferred upon Patrick, due to his successful missionary efforts?
  - The “apostle of Ireland”
- What effect did Patrick's efforts have on society, besides the spread of the gospel?
  - There developed within Ireland a thriving Christian civilization: monasteries, education, art, poetry and theology all flourished gloriously

# Review

- If Patrick was the “apostle of Ireland”, **Columba** (AD 521-97) has been called the “apostle of Scotland”.
- In his missionary expedition to Scotland, what Irish method of mission staffing did Columba follow? Hint: they based this practice on the ministry of Jesus.
  - Twelve missionaries under the leadership of a thirteenth
- Columba and his team set up a mission as their headquarters on what tiny island off the Scottish west coast.
  - Iona
- What spiritual temptation did Columbanus face in his youth, and how did he deal with it?
  - He was tempted to pursue his lustful desires with women who found him attractive. He sought advice from a female hermit who advised him to flee temptation. So he joined a monastery.
- In about AD 590 Columbanus went as leader of a band of twelve missionaries to what three European countries?
  - France, Switzerland, Northern Italy

# The Early Church

Persecuted Church

Imperial Church



33 – Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ



313 – Edict of Milan

First  
Century

Second  
Century

Third  
Century

Fourth  
Century

Fifth  
Century

Sixth  
Century

AD 1

100

200

300

400

500

600

# The First Century

## The Church Planted, Equipped and Sent



33 – Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ  
35 – Stephen martyred; Paul converted  
46 – Paul begins missionary journeys  
48 – Council of Jerusalem  
57 – Paul's Letter to the Romans

64 – Rome Burns; Nero begins persecution  
65 – Peter and Paul executed

70 – Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus

90 – Earliest date for 1 Clement

100 – Apostle John Dies

**First Century**

10

20

30

40

50

60

70

80

90

100

# The Second Century

## Early Church Fathers, Martyrs, and Early Heresies

- 100 – Didache Written
- 100 – Earliest date for Letter to Diognetus
- 110 – Ignatius of Antioch martyred
- 120 – Christianity begins to spread through Persian Empire
- 125 – Spread of Gnosticism
- 140 – Marcion's Canon of Scripture
- 150 – Justin Martyr dedicates his First Apology
- 155 – Polycarp martyred
- 170 – Melito of Sardis Passover Sermon
- 172 – Montanist movement begins
- 177 – Martyrdom at Lyons
- 180 – Irenaeus writes Against Heresies
- 196 – Tertullian begins writing

Second Century

110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200

# The Third Century

## Era of Apologetics and Increased Persecution

200 – School of Alexandria – center for Christian apologetics

215 – Origen begins writing

215 – Modalism advocated by Sabellius

250 – Decius orders empire-wide persecution

270 – Antony takes up life of solitude

Third Century

210

220

230

240

250

260

270

280

290

300

# The Fourth Century

## Rise of the Imperial Church; Battle Over the Trinity

303 – “Great Persecution” begins under Diocletian

312 – Conversion of Constantine

313 – Donatist Schism begins

321 – “Edict of Milan”

323 – Eusebius completes Ecclesiastical History

325 – First Council of Nicaea

367 – Athanasius's letter defines New Testament canon

381 – Christianity made state religion

381 – First Council of Constantinople

386 – Augustine's conversion

390 – Ambrose defies emperor

Fourth Century

310

320

330

340

350

360

370

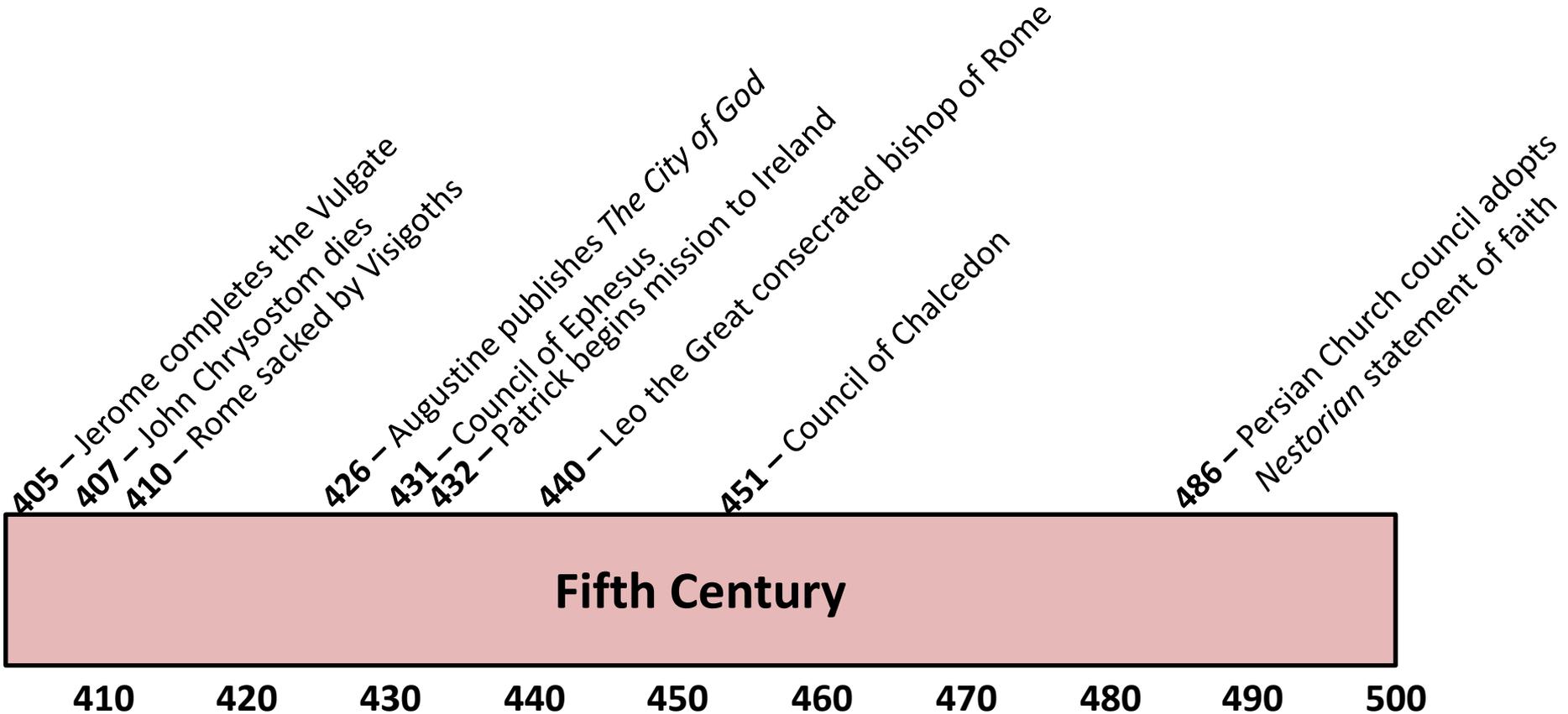
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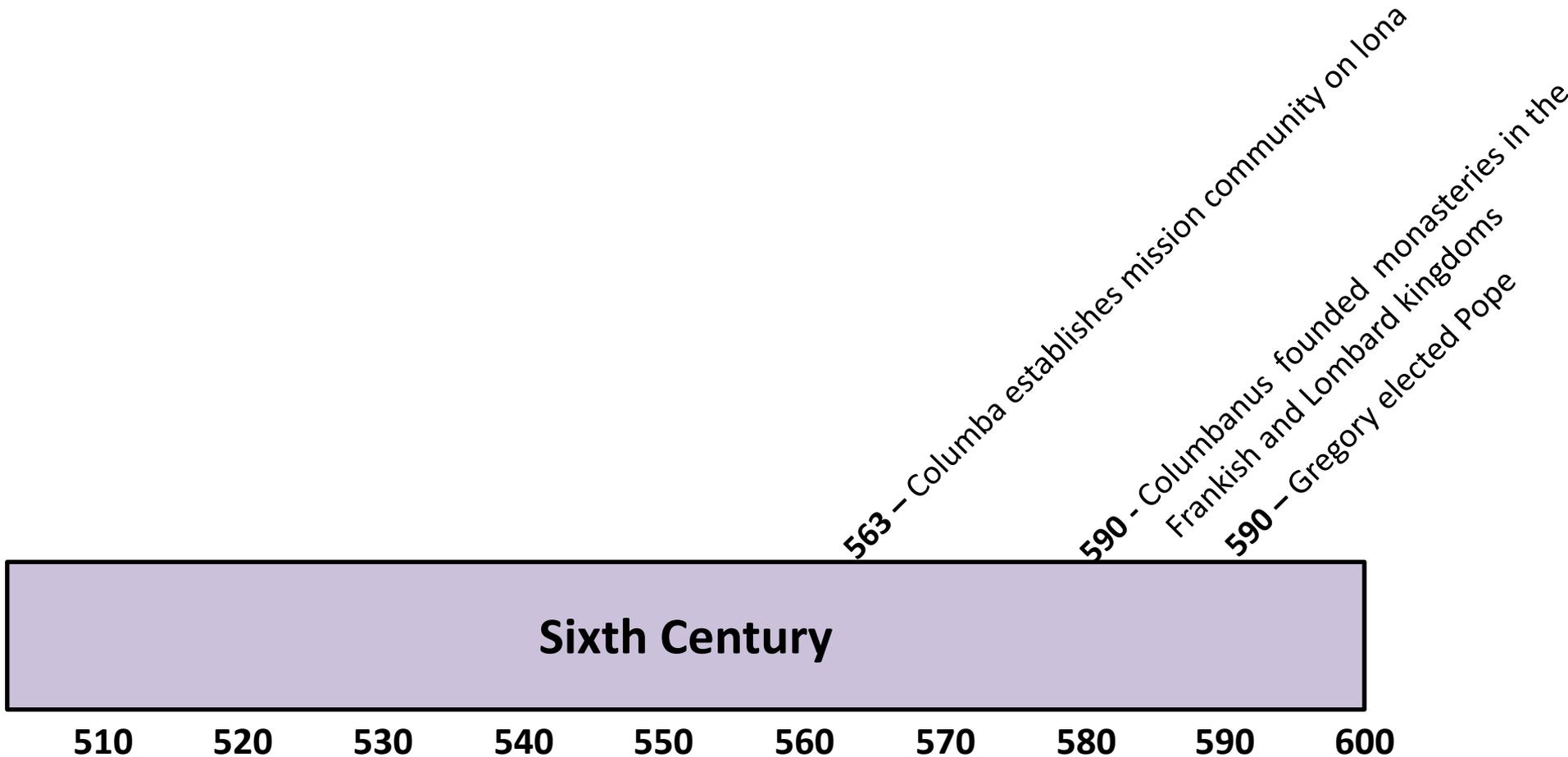
# The Fifth Century

## Fall of Rome; Battle Over Christology



# The Sixth Century

## The Spread of Christianity and Monasticism



# Major Periods of Church History



# The Medieval Church



# The Medieval Church

- When the armies of Islam came marching out of the Arabian desert, a new world was born.
- In the first 600 years after Jesus's death and resurrection, Christianity had set up its victorious banners across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, creating a group of nations and territories which, despite political and cultural differences, were united by the fact that Christianity was the public faith in each of them.
- However, in the 7th century, Christendom suddenly found its most ancient lands being conquered, and its civilization supplanted, by the fresh, dynamic, and militant religion of Muhammad.

# The Medieval Church

- Some historians have argued that this marked the true beginning of the Middle Ages.
- Of course, we must not think there was any clean or sudden break between the early Church period and the period we call the Middle Ages.
- People did not wake up one morning and think, “The Middle Ages begin today.”
- These divisions of time are something historians have invented for their own convenience, to make the study of history easier.
- Even so, the Christian world in the 7th century did experience a number of serious changes, which brought an end to one great chapter in its life-story and opened another.

# Brief Overview of the Middle Ages

- The medieval period can be subdivided into three major periods *Early*, *High*, and *Late* Middle Ages.
- In the *Early Middle Ages*, Various Germanic peoples, formed new kingdoms in what remained of the Western Roman Empire.
- In the 7th century, North Africa and the Middle East—once part of the Byzantine Empire—came under the rule of the Islam, after conquest by Muhammad's successors.
- Although there were substantial changes in society and political structures, the break with classical antiquity was not complete.
- The still-sizeable Byzantine Empire, Rome's direct continuation, survived in the Eastern Mediterranean and remained a major power.

# Brief Overview of the Middle Ages

- During the *High Middle Ages*, which began after 1000, the population of Europe increased greatly as technological and agricultural innovations allowed trade to flourish.
- In addition, a period of *global warming* which occurred at this time allowed crop yields to increase.
- Society was organized into a system of *Feudalism*, the political structure in which the nobility held lands from the Crown in exchange for military service, while the peasants (or serfs) were obliged to live on their lord's land and give him homage, labor, and a share of the produce, in exchange for military protection.

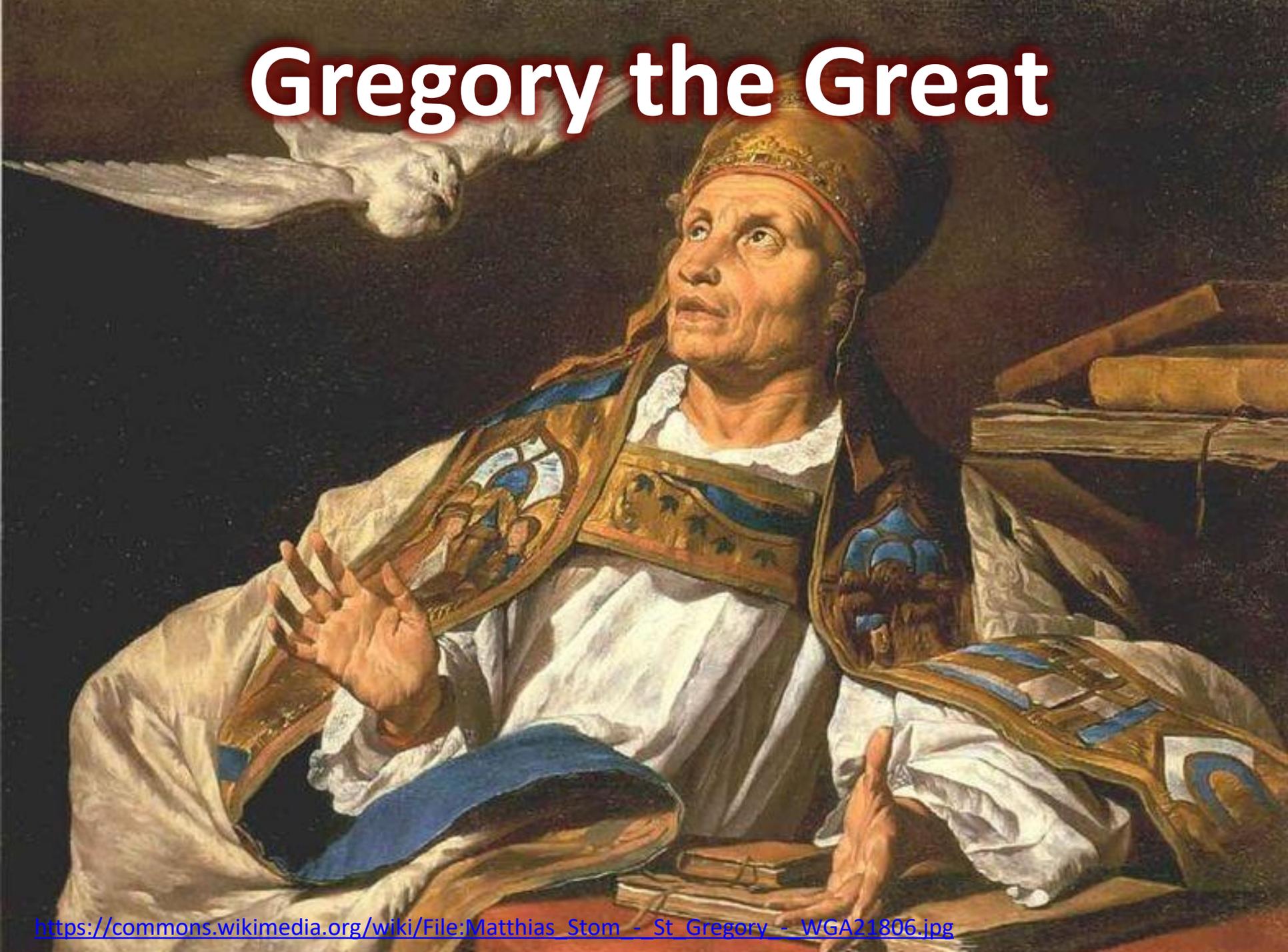
# Brief Overview of the Middle Ages

- The Crusades, which began in 1095, were military attempts by Western European Christians to regain control of the Holy Land from Muslims.
- Kings became the heads of centralized nation-states, reducing crime and violence but making the ideal of a unified Christendom more difficult.
- Intellectual life was marked by scholasticism, a philosophy that emphasized joining faith to reason, and by the founding of universities.
- The theology of Thomas Aquinas, the paintings of Giotto, the poetry of Dante and Chaucer, the travels of Marco Polo, and the Gothic architecture of cathedrals are among the outstanding achievements toward the end of this period and into the Late Middle Ages.

# Brief Overview of the Middle Ages

- The *Late Middle Ages* were marked by difficulties and calamities including famine, plague, and war, which significantly diminished the population of Europe; between 1347 and 1350, the Black Death killed about a third of Europeans.
- Controversy, heresy, and the Western Schism within the Catholic Church paralleled the interstate conflict, civil strife, and peasant revolts that occurred in the kingdoms during this period.

# Gregory the Great



# VOLUNTEERS ARE LIKE BROWNIES!

B BEST OF THE BEST  
R REALLY GENEROUS  
O OUTSTANDING  
W WONDERFUL  
N NATURALLY NICE  
I INVALUABLE TO HOPE  
E EXCELLENT  
S SWEET



# Class Discussion Time



## \*Class Discussion Time

- If you could be transported back into one of the six centuries of the Early Church for a brief visit, which one would you choose and why?
- If you could have one of the early church fathers transported into our day to give a sermon as a guest speaker at our church on a Sunday morning, which one would you choose and why?
- It is a known historical fact that global warming occurred during the Middle Ages and was beneficial to those living at that time due to a greater crop production than had been previously possible. Does this change your outlook towards alarmists today who are claim that global warming is caused by carbon emissions which will eventually lead to the destruction of our planet if we don't do something to stop it?
- Do **you** have a topic or question that **you** would like to see us to discuss?