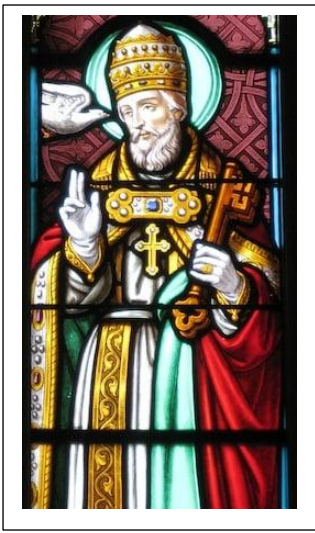




Pope St Gregory The Great

Gregory was born around 540 AD in Rome, Italy. He is the Patron Saint of Teachers, Musicians, singers and students.

He is famous for helping the poor, organizing church music, and sending missionaries.

Gregory grew up in a wealthy and important Roman family. He was very smart and worked as the **Prefect of Rome**, which meant he was a top governor in charge of keeping the city safe and running smoothly. However, even though he had a high-paying job and expensive clothes, Gregory wanted a simpler life focused on God.

Gregory left his job, turned his family home into a monastery and gave his money away to help people.

In 590 AD, the people and leaders of Rome wanted him to be the **Pope**

Gregory tried to hide because he felt he wasn't ready, but the people found him and convinced him to take the job. He became the first monk to ever become Pope. During famines and hard times, Gregory used church money and farms to give free food and clothes to people in need. He even ate meals with poor families every day. He helped collect and organize traditional church hymns and chants, which is why traditional singing in church is called **Gregorian chant**.

He sent groups of monks (like Saint Augustine of Canterbury) all the way to England to share stories about Jesus and start new churches.

Saint Gregory the Great is often shown in art with a dove because a legendary story says the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove inspired his writing and preaching.

According to an early account by Peter the Deacon, Pope Gregory's secretary put up a veil or curtain to separate them while Gregory dictated his commentaries on the Book of Ezekiel

The secretary noticed that Gregory would often stop speaking and remain silent for a very long time.

Curious about the pauses, the servant peeked through a small hole in the curtain.

He saw a dove sitting on Gregory's head with its beak placed between the pope's lips, whispering or feeding him words.

When the dove removed its beak, Gregory would speak and dictate, and when the bird returned its beak to his lips, the pope would fall silent again to listen.

Gregory's Feast Day is on September 3rd.