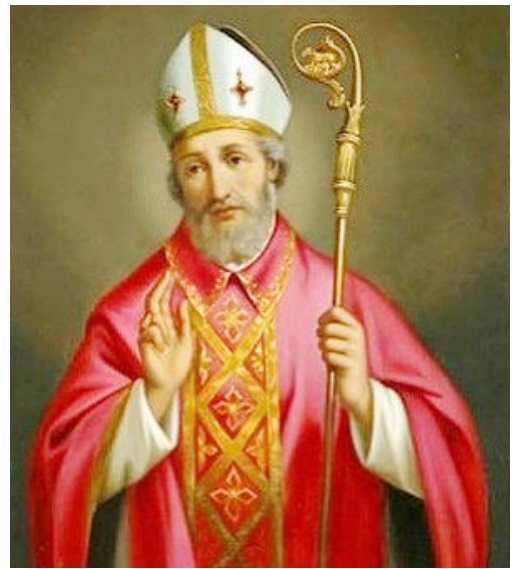


Feast Day: April 21

Symbol: a ship, his mitre, his books

Patronage: Scholars

Death: 288 CE



Saint Anselm

Anselm was born in 1000 in what was then Burgundy, now Aosta, Italy. He grew up with a very harsh father who had spats of violence and a very devoutly religious mother. At the age of 15, he wanted to enter into a monastery, but because his father disagreed he was unable to do so. He fell into a mysterious illness, presumably because of his disappointment, but then returned to living a somewhat normal life. Upon the death of his mother, Anselm's father became very religious and repented his past actions. However, he lived his life in such a dramatic and severe way that Anselm didn't want to stick around. Once his father entered into religious life, Anselm left home to wander through Burgundy and France for a while. Once his father died, he entered the abbey as a novice. He was 27 years old.

Once in the convent, he wrote his first great work, the *Grammarian*, in his first year. He quickly rose up in the ranks at the abbey, called the Abbot of Bec, much to the frustration of many of his peers. When the founder of the abbey died 15 years into Anselm's time there, he was unanimously elected as the abbot. Under Anselm, the Abbot of Bec became known as a major hub for learning in Europe. He famously wrote the *De Fide Trinitatis* in order to defend Trinitarianism.

He occasionally visited England to visit Lanfranc, a close role model figure of his from before he went into the abbey. Lanfranc was the archbishop of Canterbury. Anselm was declared to be a successor of Canterbury in the future, which disappointed William II. When it came time to appoint a new archbishop, William II declared that neither Anselm nor any other would sit at Canterbury while he lived, and then he fell mysteriously ill. William II called upon Anselm to hear his last confession, and then before he died released his captives, discharged his debts, and promised to govern according to the law. He nominated Anselm to fill the vacancy at Canterbury. After much back and forth, with Anselm initially refusing, he accepted the position on the grounds of what became known as the Gregorian Reform. He was exiled to Rome twice over his insistence on reform in England on behalf of the Church. He became known as a great negotiator of the Church, as well as a theologian.

Anselm held the position of Archbishop of Canterbury until his death in 1109. He was an opposer of the slave trade and worked to pass a resolution that banned the sale of human beings. He also went on to write many more great works in his time and is considered one of the biggest theologians in the Church's history and is an official Doctor of the Church.