

**St. John Chrysostom** (407 AD) Doctor of Ch.

“To become adult Christians you must learn familiarity with the scriptures”

[On Lt. to the Ephesians - Education of Children.]

“But what is the answer to these charges? ‘I

am not,’ you will say, ‘one of the monks, but I

have both a wife and children, and the care of a

household.’ This is what has ruined everything,

your thinking that the reading of scripture is

for monks only, when you need it more than

they do. Those who are placed in the world,

and who receive wounds every day have the most

need of medicine. So, far worse even than not

reading the scriptures is the idea that they are

superfluous. Such things were invented by the

devil.” [St. John’s Second Hom. on Matthew]

**Pope St. Gregory I** (died 604 AD)

“The Emperor of heaven, the Lord of men and of

angels, has sent you His epistles for your life’s

advantage—and yet you neglect to read them

eagerly. Study them, I beg you, and meditate

daily on the words of your Creator. Learn the

heart of God in the words of God, that you may

sigh more eagerly for things eternal, that your

soul may be kindled with greater longings for

heavenly joys.” [Letters 5, 46. (Enchirid. 31)]

**St. Isidore** (560-636 AD) Bishop and Dr of Ch.

“Prayer purifies us, reading instructs us... If a

man wants to be always in God’s company, he

must pray regularly and read regularly. When

we pray, we talk to God; when we read, God

talks to us. All spiritual growth comes from

reading and reflection. By reading we learn

what we did not know; by reflection we retain

what we have learned. Reading the holy

Scriptures (the Bible) confers two benefits. It

trains the mind to understand them; it turns

man’s attention from the follies of the world

and leads him to the love of God. Two kinds

of study are called for here. We must first learn

how the Scriptures are to be understood, and then

see how to expound them with profit and in a

manner worthy of them. A man must first be eager

to understand what he is reading before he is fit to

proclaim what he has learned. The conscientious

reader will be more concerned to carry out what

he has read than merely to acquire knowledge of

it... Learning unsupported by grace may get into

our ears; it never reaches the heart. It makes a

great noise outside but serves no inner purpose.

But when God’s grace touches our innermost

minds to bring understanding, his word which has

been received by the ear sinks deep into the heart.”

[Office of Readings, April 4]



**Lindisfarne Gospels St.Matt. English Translation 950 AD**

**St. Venerable Bede** (died 735 AD)

He is the first person known to translate

the Gospel into Old English (Anglo-Saxon).

**St. Bernard of Clairvaux** (1090-1153 AD)

Doctor and Father of the Church.

“The person who thirsts for God eagerly

studies and meditates on the inspired

Word, knowing that there, he is certain to

find the One for whom he thirsts.”

[Comm. Song of Songs, Sermon 23:3.]

**St. Bonaventure** (1221-1274 AD)

In his day, there were no public schools

and only the wealthy could afford private

tutors. Therefore, most people could not

read or write. St. Bonaventure had

composed a copy of “Biblia Pauperum”

which means the “Bible of the poor.” It

contained a collection of pictures

illustrating the important events of the Old

Testament. It also contained parallel scenes

in the New Testament and it showed how

the Old Testament prefigured and was

fulfilled in the Life and Teachings of Jesus

Christ in the New Testament. This helped

the people to learn God’s Word by

showing them the important stories of

both the Old and New Testament. He was

canonized a Saint by Pope Sixtus IV in

**1482 AD**. He was declared a Doctor of the

Church by Pope Sixtus V in **1588 AD**.

**Decree of the Council of Trent**

“[The holy synod] following the examples

of the orthodox fathers, receives and

venerates with an equal affection of piety

and reverence all the books both of the Old

and of the New Testament—seeing that one

God is the Author of both...”

[Session 4, April 8, 1546]