

The Catholic Church and Monasticism



Image: Gregory the Great in *Dialogi* (early 12th century)

Oboedientia, ae (f.)

Obedience

Comes from verb “oboedia” → to obey,
yield obedience to, to be subject to, to serve

Catholic?

Original mean in Greek “universal” or “general”

Used to distinguish “orthodox” Christians from “heterodox” Arians

"Catholic Church" in 6th century = all Christians who practice accepted form of Christianity as determined by church councils (like Council of Nicaea, 325)

statim qui accusatur
quincatur a ministro
finita. xv. causa.



my.
m.
do

parochianam habet
attur ibi monachi

Obedience



Monasticism

- Monos = one or alone
- St. Anthony of Egypt (251-356)
- Hermits
- Monastic communities and cooperative living



The Benedictine Rule (530)

By Benedict of Nursia
(480-550)

- Prayer, reading, and work
- Poverty, chastity, and obedience



Dual Monastery of Whitby, 7th century

monstrabo. T E R C I V S T E O D E R I C U S D E P I N X I T H A N C I M A G I N E M G R E G O R I I P A P A M

T E R C I V S T E O D E R I C U S D E P I N X I T H A N C I M A G I N E M G R E G O R I I P A P A M



Pope Gregory I “The Great” (r. 590-604): Pastoral Care

- *The Book of Pastoral Care*
 - Standard of clerical behaviour and practice
 - Responsibilities of priests and bishops
- *Servus servorum Dei*
 - “servant of the servants of God”
- “The Guidance of souls is the arts of all arts”



Pope Gregory I: Conversion



Augustine to British Isles → 596



Libre primus
de historia
Anglorum

Ita sicut in trionem secedunt
loci: scilicet germaniae, galliarum
hispaniae, maximusque euro-
paeus.

Multo in trionem secedunt
partimque passim. Dece. In bo-
nem longe. Latitudinis habet milia
centa. Septem. dum taxat prolixio
nubus. duarumque pro mo-
nitionum tractibus.

Quibus spectant ut emittantur
quadrages. octes. lxxi. milia con-
plecti. habet canonicus. galliam
belgicam. cuius proximum tra-
ctus meatus. asperitas civitates que
dictam ritibus possunt.

Quae carthorum sunt con-
spicitur. uo caeta.

Ita postquam a respiciendo
monitionum specti. lxxi. milia
tractum milium quoniam caeta
sue ut quidam scripsit. facti
onum. cccclj.

Adhuc in trionem secedunt
partim. oncaedat. Insularum habet.
Optima partibus. atque carbonibus.
Insulae. et alindis. et cae pconibus.

quadrages. octo milibus. summo. et
partim. et alindis. et cae pconibus.

Bede, *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (*Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum*) Letter to Abbot Mellitus (page 48)

731

- What actions does Gregory suggest the missionaries take? Why do you think he encourages them to do these things?
- What impression does this letter give us about Gregory's perception of the English?
- What does this letter tell us about Gregory's perception of his own role as shepherd to those that are eventually converted?



Augustine preaching to King Ethelbert of Kent and his wife Bertha

Image: James Doyle, mid-19th c.

Gregory's Plan in the British Isles

- Establish metropolitan sees in York and Canterbury
- Controlled by Archbishop who received powers from the pope
- Establish hierarchy of:

