

The Popes Leo

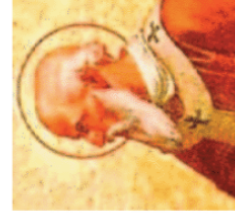
Leo I [#45] (St.) (the Great) {440-461} Pope Leo's theological expertise was showcased at the Council of Chalcedon in 451, which aimed to resolve a controversy regarding the nature of Christ. Eutyches, a monk from Constantinople, argued for the Monophysite belief that Christ had only one divine nature, denying His humanity. In response, Leo wrote the "Tome" to Archbishop Flavian, explaining that Christ is both fully human and fully divine, coexisting "without confusion, without change, without division, without separation."



When the papal legates presented the "Tome" to the bishops, they declared, "Peter has spoken through Leo!" This highlighted the Pope's authority and impact on Christian doctrine.

In 452, Attila the Hun invaded Italy, reportedly demanding the Emperor's sister as part of a dowry. As he approached Rome, he abruptly retreated. A legend suggests that Leo met Attila and showed him a sword hidden beneath his robes, which deterred him. Historians believe Leo may have sent another man to confront Attila, and that Attila's troops recognized they could not defeat the forces before them.

Leo II [#80] (St.) {682-683} Pope Leo II served the



Catholic Church as pontiff for less than a year from his coronation on August 17, 682 to July 3, 683. As a personally accomplished singer, he encouraged music in the Church. In the brief time that he was in the office of the pontiff, Leo II managed to carry out a few policies. The most important of these was his receiving, approving, and publishing of the acts that came out of the Sixth Ecumenical Council of Constantinople in the year 680 A.D. Pope Leo II ordered the translation of portions of the acts into Latin from the original Greek so that the clergy would be able to understand them throughout the Western European churches. For his accomplishments and devotion, the Western Church canonized him as St. Leo II following his death.

Leo III [#96] (St.) {795-816} Pope Leo III served as the pontiff from 795 A.D. to 816 A.D. Before becoming pope, he was

the Cardinal-Priest of St. Susanna and the chief of the pontifical treasury. To inform Charlemagne of his election, Leo sent him the keys to the confession of St. Peter and the city standard, recognizing him as the protector of the Holy See.

In 800 A.D., a significant event occurred when Charlemagne visited Rome to restore order to the Church. On Christmas Day, during a ceremony for his son, Louis the Pious, Pope Leo unexpectedly crowned Charlemagne as Roman Emperor.

Leo IV [#103] (St.) {847-855} Pope Leo IV served as the Bishop of Rome and ruler of the Papal States from April 10, 847 A.D. until his death in 855 A.D. He is well-known for his work on the Leonine Wall, which surrounds Vatican Hill, and for repairing the significant damage caused by Arab attacks on churches in Rome.



Leo IV also organized a defensive league of Italian cities to combat the Saracens in the maritime Battle of Ostia, where they achieved victory. He is regarded as a miracle worker, a belief supported by his biographer and the Patriarch Photius, and the Patriarch Photius. His name appears in the Roman Martyrology.

Leo V [#118] {903-904} Auxilius, a chronicler from Leo's time named wrote that Leo commanded "the ruler of the Holy Roman Church" for only 30 days. Auxilius also described him as a man of God who lived a praiseworthy life of exemplary holiness.

The only act from his brief two-month papacy that remains known today is a special Papal Bull issued by Pope Leo V. In this declaration, he stated that the Bologna canons were exempt from their required taxes. Unfortunately, no additional information about his papacy has survived of his time in the papacy.



Leo VI [#124] {928-929} As pope, he served for just over seven months, from June 928 A.D. until his death in office in February of the following year. Leo's pontificate occurred during the tumultuous period for the Western Church known as the *Saeculum Obscurum*, characterized by a series of popes living immoral lifestyles.

