Church History: Christian Roman Empire, the people making history: My Notes

State of Rome After Constantine:

* East and west empires
  + Move of capital to Constantinople caused a two capital sentiment. End of 4th century the idea of “On this rock’ Peter was bishop of rome,” nonsense was well established. Rome vs. Constantinople was the dye.
  + Leo was the first to put it in writing. “In the sermon Leo preached in the day of his entrance into office he extolled the glory of the blessed Apostle peter… in whose chair his power lives on and his authority shines forth.”
  + East eventually become Byzantine Empire
  + West crumbles and the church remains the stabilizing force in the west.
* Development of monasticism (everyone’s a christian, so how do we tell the “real” ones?)
  + Anthony: first monk. Friend of Athanasius *Life of Saint Anthony*

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* + Benedict of nursia d. 542.
    - Established the first “Bendictine order in 529 in Monte Cassino
    - Benedictine life:
      * 7 services a day
      * The “vigil” 2am service
      * Made own clothes, wine, furniture, and masonwork
      * Labor a requirement. “Idleness is hostine to the soul, and therefore the brethren should be occupied at fixed times in manual labor and a definite hours in religious reading.”
      * Centered around self-denial and self-disciple

People:

The three capadocians

Gregory of Nazianzus - 329-390

* friend of Basil the great
* monk at heart
* a mix of the other two capadocian fathers

Gregory of Nyssa – 335-395

* softer soken, preferred anonymity
* took up a wife early on, but became a monk when she died
* *On Virginity*
* Against his will became a leading father in Constantinople 381
* Died in obscurity, as he wished it

Basil the Great 329-379

* Older brother of Gregory of Nyssa
* Pompous, and arrogant orator and lawyer
* Humbled by his older brother’s death
* Influential father in fight on Arianism
* Championed Greek monastic life with friend Gregory of Nazianus.

Julian The Apostate – 331-363 (reigned 355-363)

* after Constantine died he left the empire to his three sons. Julian, a nephew of Constantine, was bitter toward the death of his family and butted heads with Constantius. He won the empire and united it again in 361, but wanted to restore ancient roman pagan splendor.

Ambrose – 340-397

* Theodosius was too zealous in punishing non-christians. Ambrose withheld communion until he “repented”
* Bishop of Milan 373
* Ambrose was the ultimate conflict manager.
* Something realized in Ambrose is later abused by Pope Gregory VII…700 years later.

Theodosius – 347-395 (reigned 379-395)

* an honest but overzealous christian
* Made Christianity mandatory in 380
* Killed 7,000 rioters
* Butted heads with Ambrose over his own sin

John Chrysostome 349-407

* The golden Mouthed
* Overprotective mother – he wanted to be a monk, but his mom made him promise he would never leave her
* Made bishop of Constantinople in 398
* Butted heads with the Eastern emperor.
* Eventually banished by Arcadius, a spineless and weak emperor.

Jerome 347-420

* quite brash, outspoken and always right.
* “His holiness was not humble peaceful and sweet, but rather proud, stormy and even bitter.”
* butted heads with everyone, including the guys we’ve been talking about.
* He loved the pagan philospohers and hated that he did so.
* Tried to be a hermit but couldn’t. Tried to kill his sex drive with Hebrew… it worked!
* Translated Bible into Latin *the Vulgate*
* Defended against pelagianism

Augustine 354-430

* b. 354 in Tagaste (Northern Africa)
* heard Ambrose’s teaching and came to see that Christianity could be both eloquent and intelligent, and that the troublesome OT stories could be interpreted as Allegories.
* Quite well educated: Mother a christian, father a pagan
* Sex was his sin. “Nothing so powerful in drawing the spirit of a man downward as the caresses of a woman.”
* Professor in the State university of Milan in 384
* Tried Manichaeism for 9 years. Was searching for Truth.
* Confounded by the success of the monks in spiritual warfare when he knew only defeat. And they were uneducated hermits!
* Conversion. Rom 13:13-14. “Take it and read it.” “How long, Lord, How long? Will it be tomorrow and always tomorrow? Why does my uncleanliness not end this very moment?” “Instantly, as I reached the end of this sentence it was as if the light of peace was poured into my heart and all these hades of doubt faded away.”
* D. 430
* THE most influential and prolific church father of the first millennium, for better or for worse.
  + View of the sacraments: Priests are administering God’s grace
  + View of force: Force is necessary sometimes to make the offender recognize its justice
  + Against Pelagianism
  + The City of God
* The last writer of the Imperial Church. The Vandals finally sacked Rome in 455, but it had been decaying ever since Alaric and the Goths in 410

Leo I (Leo the Great) 400-461

* meeting with Attila in 452
* Meeting with Geiseric 455
* Leo shouldered the responsibility of defending the holy city from others. He took the Pontifex Maximus title for himself. Peter had come to Rome