

## AMBROSE (Aurelius Ambrosius) 340-397

- 340 Born in Trier, Germany to a Roman Christian family. Father was prefect of Gaul; mother was intellectual and pious. 341 Father died.
- 372 Following his father's career, educated in Rome, was made Governor (consular prefect) of Liguria and Emilia, headquartered in Milan.
- 374 Bishop of Milan, Auxentius, an Arian, died. Ambrose prevented a crisis over succession and was named by acclamation Bishop of Milan. He refused at first; within a week he was baptized, ordained and consecrated Bishop. Beginning 374, sought to stop Arianism in Milan. Studied Philo, Origen, Athanasius, and corresponded with Basil of Caesarea (later, Basil the Great).
- 382 General council called by Emperor Valentinian II. Ambrose was elected president of the council; two rival Arians were deposed from their bishoprics.
- 382 Gratian, under influence of Ambrose In 382, Gratian appropriated the income of the Pagan priests and Vestal Virgins, forbade legacies of real property to them and abolished other privileges belonging to the Vestals and to the pontiffs. He confiscated the personal possessions of the colleges of Pagan priests, which also lost all their privileges and immunities. Gratian declared that all of the Pagan temples and shrines were to be confiscated by the government and that their revenues were to be joined to the property of the royal treasury.
- 384 Roman reaction to Gratian's decree led by Symmachus, uphold old Roman religio  
Altar of Victory debate: Ambrose vs Symmachus. Old religion vs New.
- 385 Emperor Valentinian and his mother, Justina, professed Arianism, as did many clergy, laity and military; demanded there be two churches in Milan, one for the Arians; Ambrose repeatedly refused to allow this.
- 386 Ambrose writes **De officiis ministrorum**:  
Ambrose provided educated Latins with an impeccably classical version of Christianity. His work on the moral obligations of the clergy, **De officiis ministrorum** is skillfully modelled on Cicero's **De officiis**. He sought to replace the heroes of Rome with Old Testament saints as models of behaviour.
- 388 A synagogue at Callinicum was destroyed by a mob, led by the local bishop. Emperor Theodosius ordered it be rebuilt; Ambrose strenuously objected; Theodosius rescinded the order.
- 390 Ambrose excommunicated Theodosius I, emperor of the East, after a massacre of 7,000 at Thessalonica. Huge confrontation between Ambrose/Theo.  
Ambrose driven out of Milan goes to Florence. Later back, Theodosius gives in.  
ex of new power of Christian church vs secular (again: Henry II vs Becket)
- 391 Under Ambrose's influence, Emperor Theodosius issued the Theodosian decrees, intensifying the persecution of Pagans. 397
- 397 Apr 4, Ambrose died,  
body can be viewed in Basilica di Sant' Ambrogio in Milan. one of oldest churches in Europe. (mid 300s), Romanesque enlargement is current church.