

Patristics(The Apostolic Fathers)

what does it mean? "Pater"

it means.....Father

**so it is the study of life,acts,
writing,doctrines,sayings, of our early
church fathers**

so the apostolic era is up to the 8th century

**1st writer of patrology is St.Jerome "The
life of Famous Men"**

**so patrologyincludes
doctrine,writings, Sermons.....**

**as we talked about the church history we
knew the main pillar to our faith**

is.....the Holy Bible

- The 2nd pillar of our faith is
- The Ecumenical Councils which are...
- The 3rd one is the Tradition which we have from our apostolic fathers and early church fathers(patristic)

- What are the qualifications for “Father”
- 1-must have dialogues, letters, sermons, commentaries on some books of the scripture
- 2-orthodoxy of doctrine
- 3-holiness of life
- 4-antiquity (before the 8th century)

- Categories of Fathers
- 1-apostolic fathers(chosen by the apostles ,including:
 - -St.CLEMENT OF ROME
 - -ST.IGNATIUS
 - -ST.POLYCARP
 - -ST.Papias

- 2-DEFENDERS: (THEY DEFENDED CHRISTIANITY AGAINST IDOLATRY,JEWS,...)
- -ST.ATHENODORE
- ST.IRANEOS
- 3-WORLD'S TEACHERS: (INCLUDE)
- ST.ATHANASIUS ST.BASIL THE GREAT
- ST.CYRIL ST.GREGORY ST.JEROME
- ST.JOHN(DAMASCUS) ST.AUGUSTINE

- 4-CONFESSORS (DEFENDED CHRISTIANITY AGAINST HERESIES WITHOUT SHADING BLOOD) INCLUDE
- ST.DIOSCOROUS ST.SEVERUS OF ANTIOCH
- 5-MONASTIC Fathers(established monasticism) st-anthony
- St.pachoum st.macarius the great
- St.shenouda the archimandrite

- ***Classifications of patristic writing***
- Time
- Language
- Place
- The material

- ***1-Time***

- 3 parts (ante-Nicene , Nicene, Post Nicene fathers)
- Ante-Nicene: are the disciples and the apostles from 1st century to the 3rd century
- Nicene: runs from 300AD to 480 AD around the council of nicea
- Post Nicene: from 430AD to 7th century

- 2-language
- There was either Greek, or Latin and some was Coptic ,Syrian and Armenian
- 1-from the East: (written in Greek)
- St.basil st.athanasius
- Stgregory the theologian st.cyril the great
- St.dioscorus st.serverus of antioch
- St.john chrysostom

- 2-from the west(written in Latin)
- St.cyabrianous
- St.ambrose st.jerome

- **3- The Place:**

- 1- Egyptian Fathers.....mainly from the school ofand from the desert fathers
- 2-the antiochens
- 3-the latin fathers (western fathers)
- 4-the cappadocian fathers

- *The material:*

- 1-biblical writings 2-letters
- Liturgical works 4-dialogues
- 5-christian songs and poetry
- 6-church history
- 7-sermons

- Importance of patrology:
- 1-they established our true orthodox faith
- 2-they defended our faith(dogmatic life)
- 3-they wrote liturgy(sacramental theology)
- 4-they guided everyone around that time sprituually (sprititual theology)
- 5-had a role in our church history
- 6-studing bible(corrected some things in the early time
- 7-they left for us through their love and faith books,sermons,.....

- **St. clement of rome**

- 1-he was a disciple of the apostles peter and paul
- 2-he mentioned him (phil.4: 3)
- 3-he became the 4th bishop of rome
- He was a jewish slave, or son of a jewish slave owned by clemens who freed him
- He got martyred while in exile bec he converted.

- He wrote wonderful letters to the people of Corinthian because they had troubles with the bishops ,so through his love he directed them to obey their local bishop and be humble ,and to solve the problems that some people made against the bishops and priests and don't want to follow what they say in the church,refused their guidance so he wrote wonderful letters to them he said for example

- that the Christian priesthood was of great importance as it is clearly an extension of the priesthood of the Old Testament. St. Clement further stated that the church's Shepherd hood through her bishops and priests is through apostolic succession and hierarchy, and it is of utmost importance for the church's witness and continuity.



- They were reading it on the lord's day
- St. ireaneus said it is an epistle and should be read in churches ,and it was for many years

- It ***had 1-need for repentance***: "let us look at the blood of christ, and see how precious that blood is to god the father ,which having been shed for our salvation, has set the grace of repentance for the whole world
- ***It had confidence in god's*** promise: "therefore that all his beloved should be partakers of repentance, he has by his almighty will, how blessed and wonderful ,beloved are the gifts of god.

- **Witness to god by our behavior:** " let testimony to our good deeds be borne by others,as it was in the case of our righteous forefathers
- ***Escaping from pride***"it is better for you to be found small ,and in an hounorable place in the flock of christ rather than being highly exalted and be casted out from his people.

- *Offering unceasing thanksgiving to **god*** since we receive all things from him ,we ought to give him thanks for everything"

- ***St. Ignatius***

- 1-St. Ignatius was born in Syria and martyred at Rome between 98 and 117 AD

- that Ignatius was the child whom the Savior took up in His arms, as described in Mark 9:35.

- . St. Ignatius was the third Bishop of Antioch

- St. Ignatius the Theophorus is the intercessor of Syrian Church a sister of our Coptic
- Orthodox Church in the faith “Non-Chalcedonian Orthodox Churches” and so the Syrian Patriarch, who is usually mentioned in the Fathers Litany in our Divine Liturgy, carries St. Ignatius’ name as a part of his title “Mar Ignatius” and now he is “Mar Ignatius Zaka Iuaous the First”.

- He wrote 7 epistles, written to many places in the church, Ephesus; Rome, Magnesia, Smyrna, Philadelphia, Polycarp
- It had a lot of dogma in it such as
- Christ the savior -salvation - death(fear of death is a bondage to satan)
- The church(the eucharist, sacraments, community of love, and sharing, songs

- -it talked a lot about baptism,
- Martyrdom
- Witness to christ the only god (due to pagan)
- The priesthood and deacons
- The unity of the church

- ***St. polycarp***

- 1-St. POLYCARP was born in 70 A D to a Christian family who received its faith from the very apostles of Lord Jesus Christ. St.
- 2-POLYCARP was chosen by the bishop as his personal secretary; and later, when he was
- forty years old became the bishop of Smyrna

- about the year 80 AD was a disciple of the
- apostles, in particular of St. John the Evangelist, and was constituted by him Bishop of Smyrna, probably before his banishment to Patmos in 96 AD.
- St. POLYCARP kissed with respect the chains of the elderly St. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, who passed by Smyrna on the road to his martyrdom,

- St Polycarp wrote his Epistle to the Phillipians. The first twelve chapters of this Epistle fought the heresy of Markion. The last two chapters expressed the love of St Polycarp to his friend St Ignatius of Antioch. St Polycarp visited Rome and met her Bishop Inistos (154 AD). St Polycarp was martyred on 22 February 156 AD.

- St. Ignatius said" I will choose the lord jesus christ.i want to give all that I have to have him. I want to be as wheat and ground for his sake"
- ***St Papias*** was the disciple for St John the Apostle and a friend for St Polycarp the Martyr as mentioned by St Irinaos in his Book against heresies. St Papias wrote five Books, which are explanations of the Lord's sayings in which He depended on the Holy Gospel according to St Mark and St Matthew

- St. Gregory the theologian ordained as a bishop, had only 17 Christians in his parish and at the end of his life there was only 17 non-Christians in his parish
- St. John the Chrysostom said "the words of deep, pure prayer are like the fire you ignite before God." "there is one person who when he has a true love to God, can change the whole city to the Lord Jesus Christ."