




Fathers and Doctors of the Church



Commemorated in the Fifth Diptych (Thubden)

OUTLINED BASED ON SUNDAY SCHOOL TEXT ,OSSAE

+AJ

**THUBDEN – A SYRIAC TERM MEANING ‘AGAIN’.
THESE ARE A FORM OF LITANY.**


**GENERALLY ,WE HAVE SIX THUBDENS USED
DURING A HOLY QURBANA**

The twenty six Church fathers in the fifth *Thubden*

- ▶ Twenty three Church Fathers who lived during the first seven centuries of church history and three proclaimed saints in the Malankara church. These 26 Church Fathers are not listed in the chronological order in the fifth Diptych.

PATROLOGY / PATRISTICS

- ▶ **Eusebius of Caesarea** (c. 260 - c. 340 A.D) could be considered as “The Father of Patrology,” who established the idea of publishing the sayings and writings of the fathers



▶ *“When a man learns from the mouth of another, it is said that he is the child of the person who teaches him, and the latter is called his father/Parent.”*

- **St. Irenaeus**

Significance of History of Early Christianity and Patristics

The death of Jesus by crucifixion, together with his resurrection from the dead, lies at the heart of Christianity.



From there the Church grows (Christianity) across to four quarters of the earth



Disciples, Apostles, Apostolic fathers and early Church fathers



They spoke & wrote of Social Justice, Greed, concerns - Hospices, Theologically fought heresies

EARLY CHRISTIAN CENTRES

Jerusalem



Alexandria/ Constantinople



Rome



Antioch

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES



Features of Early Christian age

CULTURE – JEWISH , GRECO- ROMAN

RELIGION- MONOTHEISM, POLYTHEISM

EMPERORS/ IMPERIAL POWERS

EARLY CHRISTIAN CENTRES

PERSECUTIONS

BISHOPS

HERESIES

COUNCILS

Nicea -325



Summoned by Constantine;

Constantinople- 381



By emperor Theodosius I,

Ephesus - 431



Summoned by Emperor Theodosius II.

Chalcedon - 451



Emperor Marcian

EARLY CHURCH

FATHERS:

Characteristics

APOSTOLIC SUCCESSIONS/PROXIMITY

WRITINGS: FESTAL LETTERS

LETTERS TO CHURCHES

RECORDED SERMONS

TAUGHT CATECUMENS

APOLOGETICS (AGAINST HERESIS)

APOSTOLIC FATHERS

St. James, (+62 AD)-
brother of Jesus St. James
of Jerusalem, known as
brother of Jesus.

**Ignatius of Antioch (AD 35-
107)-** Bishop of Antioch.
The child whom Christ set
in the midst of the disciples

APOSTOLIC FATHERS

St. Clement of Rome Bishop (circa. A.D. 88- ca. 97) Disciple and successor of St. Peter. Believed that, Peter ordained Clement (*Tertullian, Praescr. 32; cf. Epiphanius, Haer. 27.6*)

Dionysius of Alexandria Bishop (247/8-264/5). Dionysius "the Great" was a pupil of Origen. Guided the Alexandrian church with moderation & broadmindedness during famine and plague, civil war & persecution.

Church Fathers of the Fourth Century

St. Athanasius of Alexandria (ca. 300-373)
Bishop of Alexandria. A deacon under
bishop Alexander (311-328), acted as his
secretary at Council of Nicaea 325.

St. Julius, Bishop of Rome (337-352).
Supported Athanasius which lead to
triumph of Nicene orthodoxy from the
Arian controversy. Convened a council
in Rome (341) & acquitted Athanasius
of the charges against him.

Fourth Century

St. Basil of Caesarea (AD 330-379) & St. Gregory of Nyssa (AD 330-335) : The cappadoceans ; Two Brothers & Gregory of Naziansus


Cappadocean Fathers


THE GOLDEN TOUNGED

St. John Chrysostom (AD 347-407): The Golden tounded

Chalcedonian 451

- ▶ **St. Cyril of Alexandria** (AD 376-444) Challenged Nestorius at Council of Ephesus . JXT "one incarnate nature of God the Word."
& *Mary -Theotokos*.
- ▶ **St. Dioscoros of Alexandria** (+454 AD): Presided over the Council of Ephesus of 449 AD (Emperor Theodosios II) & participated in the council of Chalcedon.
- ▶ **St. Timothy of Alexandria** (+477 AD): also fought against the 'two nature' theory of Christ. He was the disciple of St. Cyril of Alexandria

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- ▶ **St. Philoxenos of Mabbug (440-523):** Scholar , Theologian, Interpretations of Gospels.
 - ▶ **St. Antimus:** He was consecrated the Patriarch of Constantinople. Composed several EKBOS

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- ▶ St. Severus Patriarch of Antioch (465-538 AD): Defended orthodoxy against the Chalcedonian believers. *Maniso* 'By Thy Mother's earnest prayers'...(Theology)
 - ▶ Mar Jacob Baradeus: wore a coarse dress ,tattered pieces of cloth. He is called Baradeus or "one who wears rags." During persecutions, he moved about organizing the believers and ordaining priests and bishops.

Poets and Ascetics

- ▶ **St. Ephrem of Nisibis** (AD 306-373): St. Ephrem was a great saint poet in the Syrian Orient.
- ▶ **Mar Jacob of Sarug** (451-521 AD): He has written about 800 'memras' (anthems) and 'Bovoothos.' Among his 95 extant sermons
- ▶ **Isaac of Nineveh** (+AD 461) Mar Isaac, the disciple of St. Ephrem, led an ascetic life in a mountain peak in Edessa.

Poets and Ascetics

- ▶ **Mar Balai** (Fifth Century AD) He was a composer of 'Bovoothos' used in our liturgy. His name is remembered along with those of Mar Jacob and Mar Ephrem.
- ▶ **Mar Barsauma** (+AD 491): He used to stand and pray day and night. Because of the rigors of his fasts he was called 'Barsauma' or the 'Son of Fasting.'

Poets and Ascetics

- ▶ **Simeon the Stylite** (AD 390-459) Simeon the Stylite was a detached ascetic. He stood and prayed continuously on a pillar and hence is known as 'Stylite.' GK. stylos, "pillar".
- ▶ **Mar Abhayi:** Mar Abhayi was the bishop of Nicea. He led the church for 32 years and distributed his paternal wealth among the poor

MALANKARA ORTHODOX CHURCH

- ▶ **Yeldo Mar Baselius** (+1685 AD) b. Mesopotamia & Maphrian of the East in 1662 AD. He visited Malankara Church in 1685 AD and reached Kothamangalam, Kerala.
- ▶ **St. Gregorios of Parumala** (1848-1902) The first official canonized saint in the Malankara Church.

Both Fathers canonized on November 2, 1947

- ▶ **St. Dionysius of Vattasseril** (1858-1934). He was canonized in 2003.

Aren't there any Early Church Mothers ?

- ▶ **Definitely Patriarchal Prejudice and Pride** : Cultural – Jewish , Greaco- Roman.

Women appear scattered in the Book of Acts and in Pauline epistles. Generally they are overlooked. **Romans 16:1-15**. Here Paul himself mentions group of ten women.

St. Macrina (Cappadocean sister) –Nyssa writes about her as his teacher and details of her motherly care.

In the anonymous *Life of Ephrem the Syrian* , and also in an important homily on Ephrem by the great Syriac poet Jacob of Sarug (d. 521), the women (in choirs) were referred to as 'teachers' (in the feminine form), **malpha[̄]nya[̄]thâ**, a weighty term in Syriac, connoting learning, authority, and wisdom.

FURTHER READINGS:

- ▶ *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY* , Editor Everett Ferguson ,New York: Routledge, 1999.
- ▶ <http://www.christianholymothers.com/Downloads/HolyMothersOfOrthodoxy.pdf>
- ▶ *The Cambridge history of Christianity: Origins To Constantine, Vol I*, Cambridge :Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- ▶ Cross, F. L. *The Early Christian Fathers*. London: Gerald Duckworth & Co. Ltd., 1960.
- ▶ Kelly, J. N. D. *Early Christian Doctrine*. London: A & C. Black, 1958.