

from the National Council of Westminster the passage of a resolution prohibiting the sale of human beings. He had a great care and concern for the poorest people. What may be the equivalent today is the "Human Rights" issue.

Saint Anselm never gave up on his vocation despite a long delay. We can learn many precious things about freedom of choice from him. He was continually attempting to analyze and illumine the truths of faith through the aid of reason. This led him to a new discovery of prayer, which has been practiced for centuries, thanks to him. He is called the Scholastic Doctor because he introduced an excessively subtle dimension to learning and in an attempt to love God excessively, if that were possible. His main emphasis was growth in love, charity and familiarity with divine love.

The Saint made a great contribution to the church in highlighting Mary's significance and holiness. This was long before she was proclaimed the Immaculate Conception as a dogma. He noted that Mary possessed a holiness that was unique. She is the Mother of the judge in the day of need, and is truly the Gate of heaven and the Window of Paradise.

Pope St. Pius X speaks approvingly of St. Anselm's part in fighting for the rights of the Church. Quoting St. Anselm himself: "In this world, God loves nothing more than the liberty of His Church." He is known as a most vigorous exponent of the Catholic truth and defender of the rights of the church. The pope also mentions that St. Anselm illustrated in his life most strikingly the zeal of a good prelate and his fear of the evils that beset the souls under him. But in the grief he felt at seeing himself culpably abandoned by many, even including his brethren in the episcopate, his one great comfort was his trust in God and in the Apostolic See.

***(excerpted from: www.doctorsofthechurchofthecatholicchurch.com)

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Saint Anselm of Canterbury

Feast Day April 21



***"No one will have any other desire in heaven
than what God wills;
and the desire of one
will be the desire of all;
and the desire of all and of each one
will also be the desire of God"***

(St. Anselm, *Opera Omnia*, Letter 112).

Saint Anselm of Canterbury

*Saint Anselm was born in Aosta, Italy in 1033. He may have shown signs of instability in his adolescence, but at the age of 27 he found his place in the world when he became a monk of Bec in Normandy. Normandy was undergoing a monastic revival which had already swept over the rest of France. Bec under the Italian monk and teacher Stephen Lanfranc, was the center of Norman monasticism and perhaps the most famous school in Europe. In 1066 the duke of Normandy conquered England and in 1072, with papal aid, William I reorganized the English church and normanized the English episcopate. Lanfranc became archbishop of Canterbury, and from then on Norman monks were frequently appointed to English sees.

In 1087 William I died, and in 1089 he was followed by Lanfranc. The new king, William Rufus, an individual of questionable morals, left the Canterbury post vacant for four years due to a schism with the papacy concerning his morals. In 1093, while Anselm was visiting England, Rufus became seriously ill, and fearing he would go to hell if he died with Canterbury vacant, begged Anselm to accept the primatial see. Anselm refused, but the pope ordered him to accept it. Rufus recovered, and because of his lack of morals, ran into problems with Anselm. The king confiscated the material possessions of Canterbury and tension arose that forced Anselm to go into exile in Rome. In 1100 Rufus died, his successor Henry I and the papacy negotiated a settlement over appointing lay people to control Episcopal appointments. At one point, Anselm was ready to excommunicate half the English episcopate and had to go into exile a second time before the compromise was negotiated. Peace was restored and Anselm returned to rule the English church uneventfully until his death in 1109. One lasting value he did was to put an end to the denigration of the 'rustic' English saints by the new Norman churchmen. Lanfranc had even struck St. Dunstan out of the

calendar, and Anselm put him and many others back. He encouraged devotion to the traditional English saints, and he undoubtedly helped to promote that affection for all things English which is found even among churchmen of Norman ancestry after his day. He helped to heal that emotional schism which the Norman Conquest had opened in English life.

*(excerpted from: www.cin.org)

**Anselm is the most important Christian theologian in the West between Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. His two great accomplishments are his *Proslogium* (in which he undertakes to show that Reason requires that men should believe in God), and his *Cur Deus Homo?* (in which he undertakes to show that Divine Love responding to human rebelliousness requires that God should become a man).

**satucket.com)

***St. Anselm is the Doctor of Scholasticism. He introduced a subtle dimension in learning to promote growth in charity and familiarity with divine love. He was the first in the church to oppose the slave trade and was a daring and adventurous soul. His emphasis on freedom of choice and new ideas about prayer were a first for the church. This pioneer saint set a precedent in writing for laymen and monks. He broke away from a strong liturgical form to develop a daring and essentially private genre written in rhymed prose with intricate antitheses and strikingly bold images. Each of his prayers is addressed to an individual saint and charts the suppliant's progression from inertia to intense spiritual awareness. St. Anselm was the first in the church to oppose the slave trade. He obtained