

Reflection Wednesday Week 32 St Leo the Great 2021

Leo was born in Etruria and became Pope in 440. He was a true shepherd and father of souls. He constantly strove to keep the faith whole and strenuously defended the unity of the Church. He repelled the barbarian invasions or alleviated their effects. He persuaded Attila the Hun not to march on Rome in 452, and prevented the Vandals from massacring the population in 455. Leo left many doctrinal and spiritual writings - some are included in the Office. He died in 461. Let's listen to him:

Christian, remember your dignity. Now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom. Through baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. We share a common dignity, as the apostle Peter says: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart.

All regenerated in Christ, are made kings by the sign of the cross; they are consecrated priests by the oil of the Holy Spirit, so that beyond the special service of our ministry as priests, all spiritual and mature Christians know that they are a royal race and are sharers in the office of the priesthood. Peter overflowed with abundant riches from the very source of all graces, yet though he received much, nothing was given over to him without his sharing it.

The Child Jesus Christ, Word in our flesh, Wisdom in infancy, Power in weakness, and in true Man, the Lord of Majesty.

Peace is the first thing the angels sang. Peace is the mark of the children of God. Peace is the nurse of love. Peace is the mother of unity. Peace is the rest of the blessed souls. Peace is the dwelling place of eternity.