



Saint of the Week

Anselm Bishop and Doctor of the Church

c. 1033 - 1109

Feast Day—April 21

This scholarly Italian youth wanted to become a monk, but his father's disapproval pushed him to a secular life that he later described as dissipated. After his mother died, he moved to France to continue studies with her family. In 1060 he joined the Benedictines at Bec in Normandy, and in 1078 was elected abbot, which increasingly involved him in civil and

church affairs in France and England. In 1093 he became archbishop of Canterbury, a post held until his death. During his tenure, Canterbury became England's primate see, but Anselm was twice exiled over conflicts with English monarchs. He penned a systematic study of Christian beliefs and many letters to his beloved monks. He is a Doctor of the Church.



“A monk with an intense spiritual life, an excellent teacher of the young, a theologian with an extraordinary capacity for speculation, a wise man of governance and an intransigent defender of *libertas Ecclesiae*, of the Church's freedom, Anselm is one of the eminent figures of the Middle Ages who was able to harmonize all these qualities, thanks to the profound mystical experience that always guided his thought and his action.”

—Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, September 23, 2009