

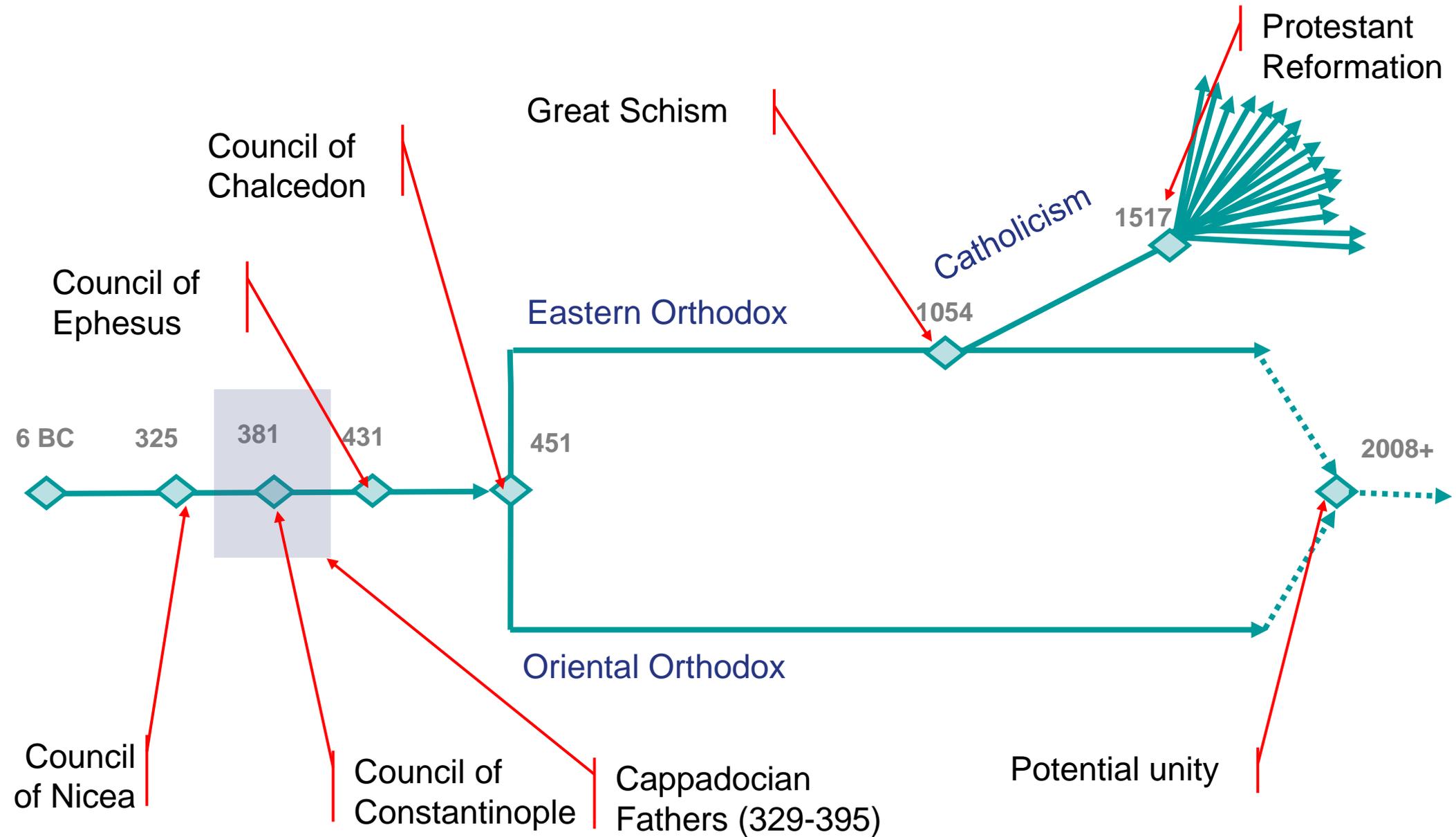


St. Basil & the Cappadocian fathers

Yr 11-12

October 2010

Church History Overview



The Cappadocian Fathers

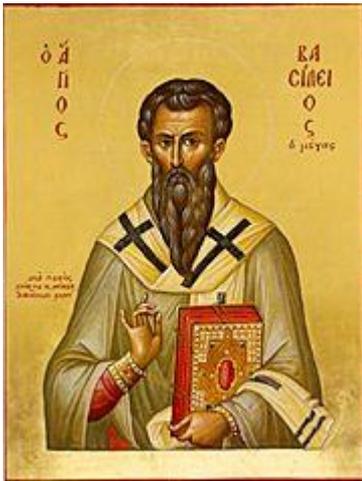


- St. Basil of Caesaria (St. Basil the Great)
- St. Gregory of Nazianzus (Friend of St. Basil)
- St. Gregory of Nyssa (Brother of St. Basil)

The Cappadocian Fathers

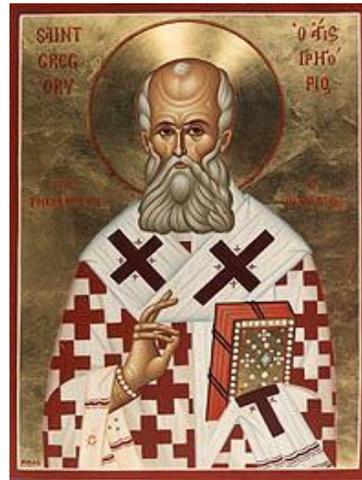
Cappadocian Fathers

St. Basil the Great



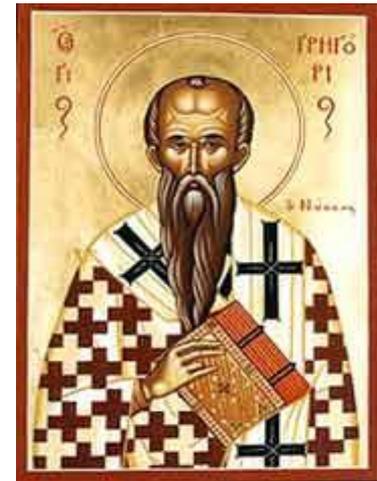
The man of action

St. Gregory of Nazianzus



The orator

St. Gregory of Nyssa

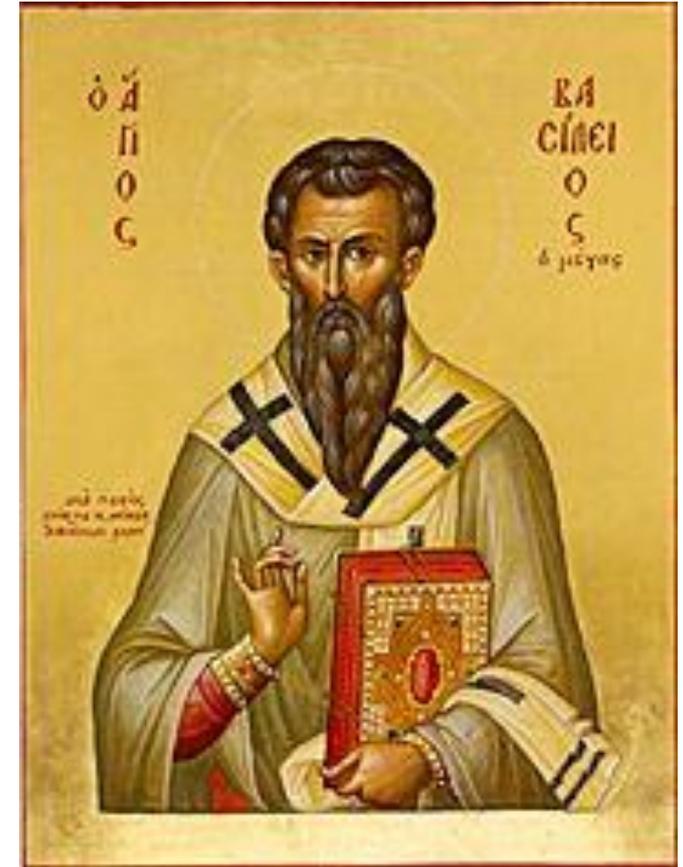
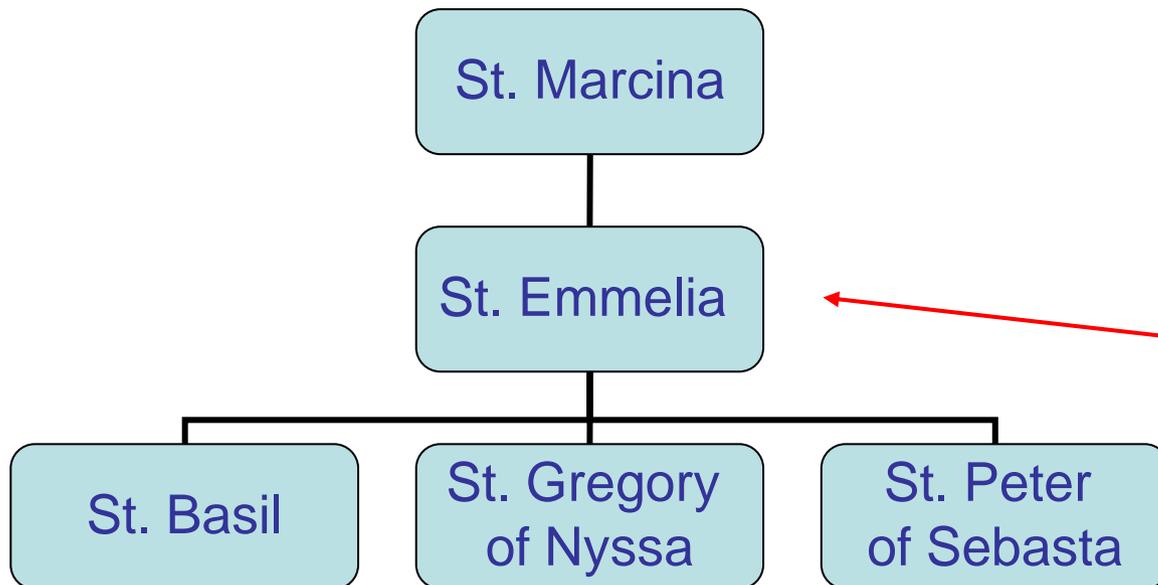


The thinker

Doctors of Trinitarian Theology

St. Basil the Great (329 – 379)

- Born in 329 to a pious & wealthy family
- Family tree:
 - Grandmother – St. Marcina
 - Mother – St. Emmelia
 - 4 brothers + 5 sisters
 - 2 bros were bishops (St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Peter of Sebasta)

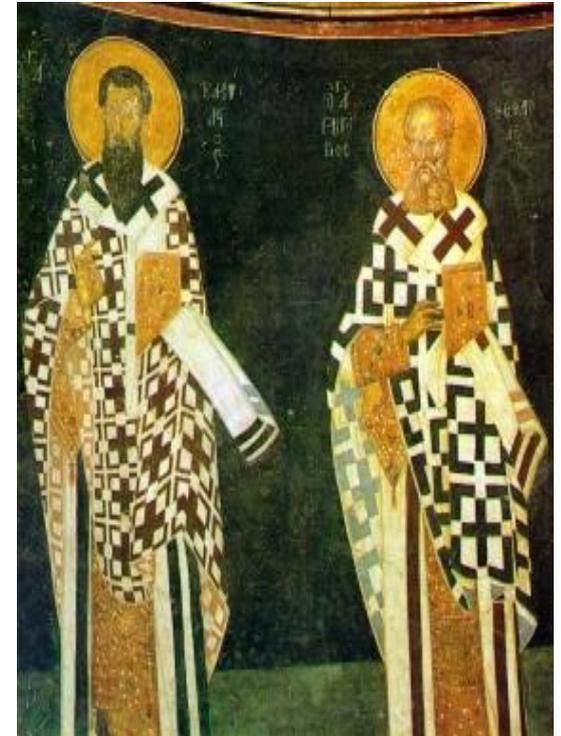


Note: Saints come in clusters. If you are holy, you will cause those around you to be holy. Unfortunately the opposite is true too!

St. Basil the Great (329 – 379)

- Studied rhetoric, maths & philosophy with his friend St. Gregory of Nazianzus and lived a very holy life.
- Their holy & pure life is revealed through this saying by St. Gregory:

“We knew only 2 streets of the city, the first and the more excellent one to the churches, and to the ministers of the altar; the other, which however, we did not so highly esteem, to the public schools and to the teachers of the sciences. The streets to the theatres, games, and places of unholy amusements, we left to others. Our holiness was our great concern; our sole aim was to be called and to be Christians. In this we placed our whole glory.”



Could we say the same if we were studying away from home?

St. Basil the Great (329 – 379)

- St. Basil travelled to Egypt to become acquainted with monasticism after he finished his studies
- Loved it and gave all to the poor and lived a monastic life in a lonely district of Pontus
- He wrote to his friend St. Gregory saying:

"God has shown me a region which exactly suits my mode of life; it is, in truth, what in our happy jesting we often wished. What imagination showed us in the distance, that I now see before me".

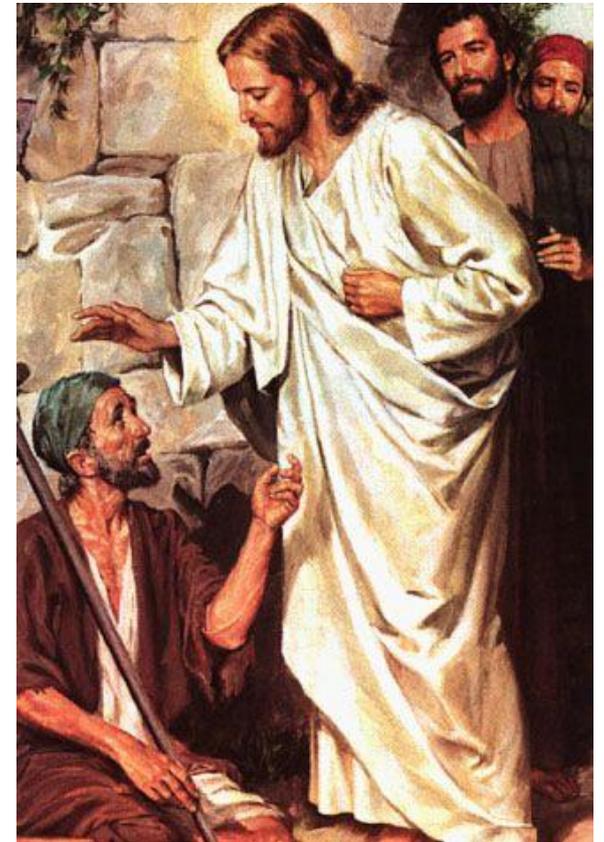
- St. Gregory of Nazianzus then joined him



Do we share and talk with our friends about our love for God?

St. Basil the Great (329 – 379)

- 364 ordained priest against his will
- He had a pastoral heart
 - In 368 there was a famine in Cappadocia. St. Basil sold his inheritance to help those in need
 - he founded a hospital for lepers, and would personally attend to them and was not afraid to kiss them
- He was an ascetic
 - sold all his inheritance and lived poorly
 - wore a single worn-out garment
 - ate bread, salt and herbs



Do look out for those who may be down or lonely and extend a loving hand?

St. Basil the Great (329 – 379)

- 370 ordained bishop of Caesarea and metropolitan of all Cappadocia
- Devotes to fighting Arianism (those who denied the Divinity of Christ)
- Emperor Valens threatened St. Basil with banishment if he did not accept Arianism
- 6 year old son of Valens fell sick
- St. Basil healed him but died later when being baptised by an Arian bishop
- He passed over in 379 (2 years before the council of Constantinople which put an end to the heresies he was fighting against)



St. Basil the Great (329 – 379)

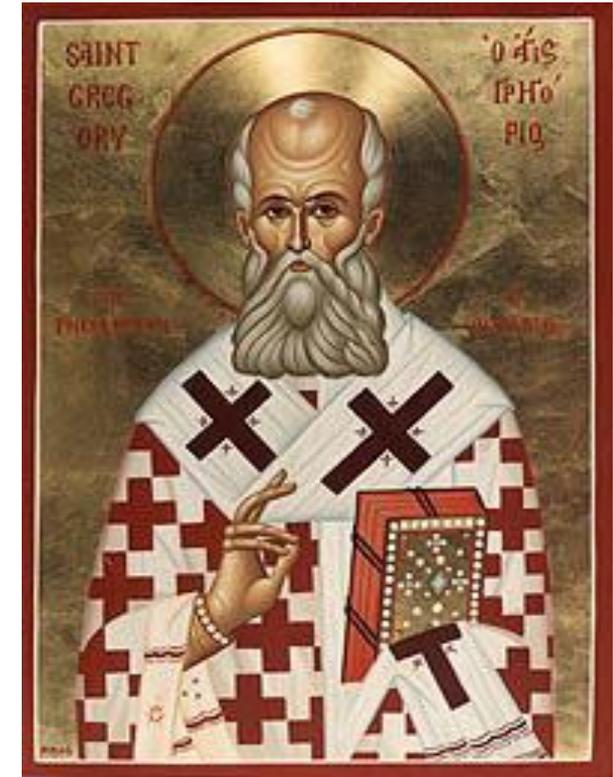
- His contributions:
 - Wrote the Liturgy
 - 5 books against Arians
 - On the Holy Spirit
 - Trinitarian theology
 - Monastic rules
 - Homilies on the psalms
 - Other works



How will we use the talents that God gave us?

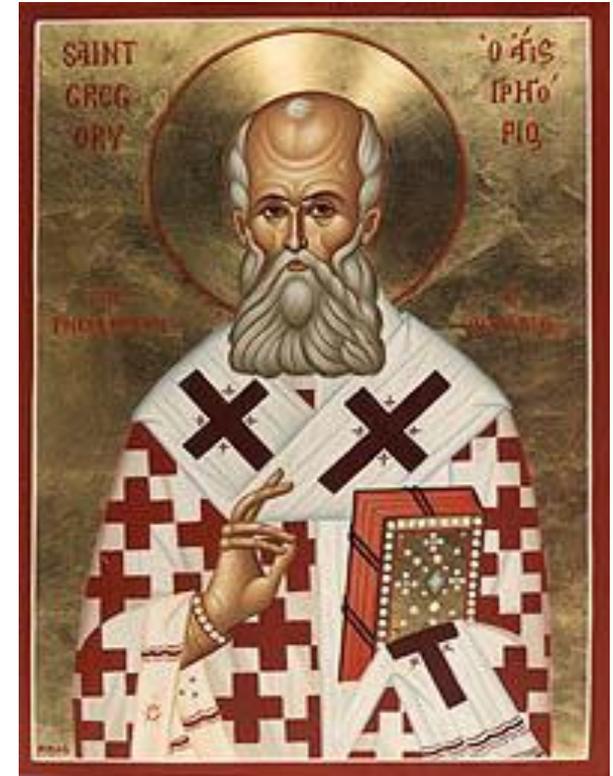
St. Gregory of Nazianzen (329 – 390)

- Born in Nazianzen
- Dad was a bishop named Gregory (After his holy wife Nonna converted him)
- Nonna consecrated Gregory while in the womb
- Studied with St. Basil
- Joined him in monastic life
- Torn between taking care of his family and the monastic life
- His dad ordained him a priest against his will in 361
- He fled to his friend St. Basil but returned in 362.



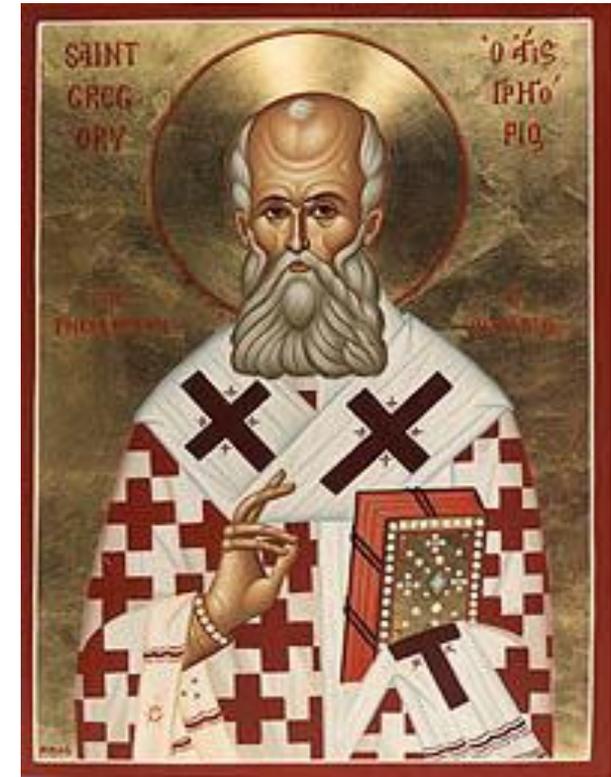
St. Gregory of Nazianzen (329 – 390)

- St. Basil ordained him Bishop of tiny insignificant town called Sasima to mute Arian heresy in the region.
- After the death of his parents he withdrew to seclusion for 4 years
- During this time St. Basil departed to heaven
- He was asked to serve in Constantinople that was given over to Arianism
- Became a renowned Theologian & preacher
 - St. Jerome travelled from Syria to hear him
 - undisputed master of words
- Consecrated as Bishop of Constantinople



St. Gregory of Nazianzen (329 – 390)

- Looked at the Trinity from a different angle
- Major figure in Constantinople council
- Was blunt about the deity of the Holy Spirit: *“how long shall we continue to place the light under the bushel and withhold the perfect deity of the Holy Spirit from others?”*
- His contributions:
 - 5 theological orations against Arius and Macedonius (Title: the theologian)
 - Wrote Liturgy
 - Poetry (400 poems)



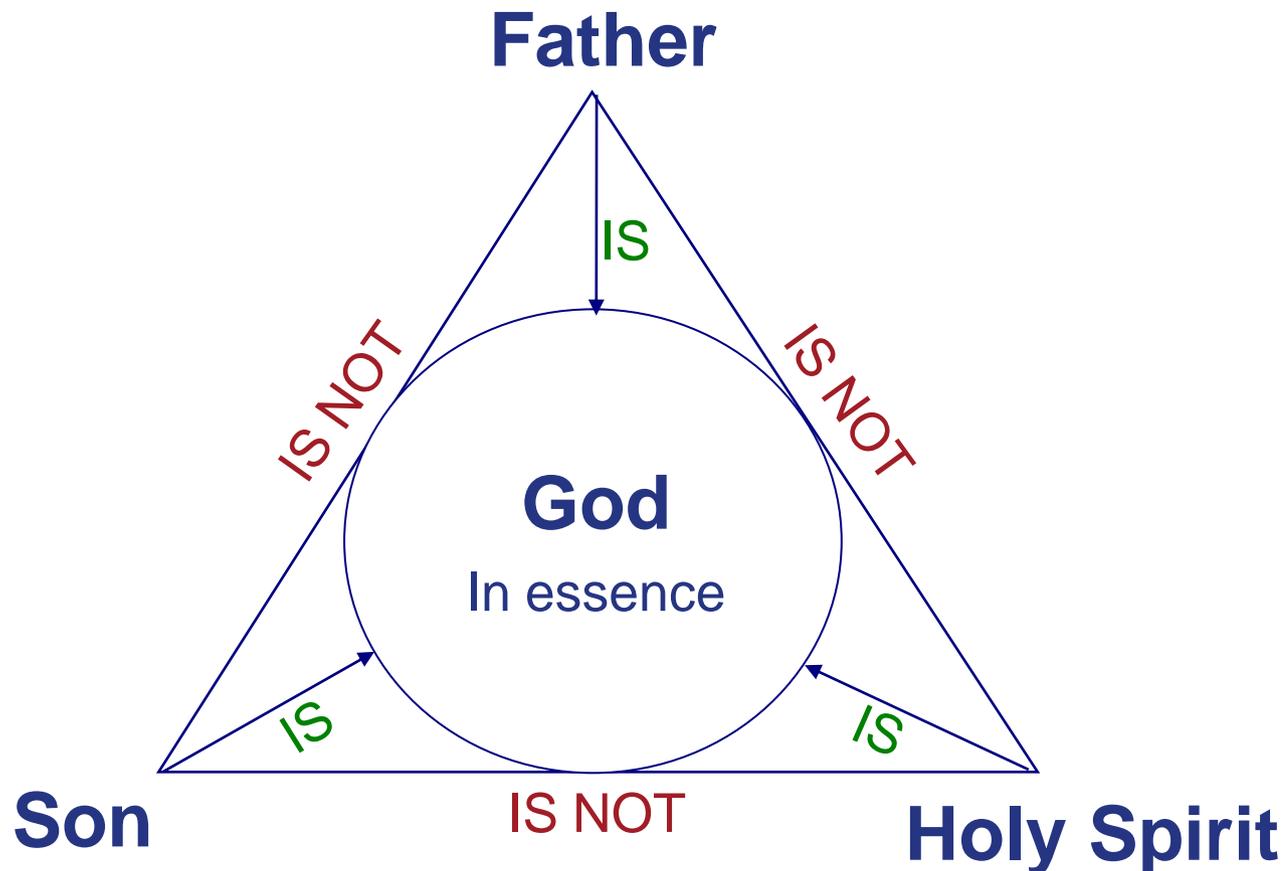
St. Gregory of Nyssa (331 – 395)

- Younger brother of St. Basil.
- He calls St. Basil his father and instructor
- Studied rhetoric
- Ordained bishop of Nyssa against his will by his brother
- He worked zealously for the Nicene faith
- Arians deposed and exiled him
- After the death of Basil he took on the fight against Arianism and began the most fruitful part of his life
- Attended the council of Constantinople as one of most eminent theologians



The Holy Trinity – clearer vocabulary defined by the Cappadocian fathers

One in Essence (**Oussia**), distinct in Person (**Hypostasis**)



The Holy Trinity – fire example



- Flames, Heat, Light – the 3 are 1 Fire
- Heat & Light proceed from the flames
- Flames are different from the heat and is different from the light
- What would happen if there was no heat or no light?
- Why is a picture of a fire not a fire?

Questions

&

Answers



Glory be to our God forever
Amen

