

Damasus (d. 384), while having problems with worldliness, was nevertheless a competent administrator who received from the Emperor Theodosius the document DE FIDE CATHOLICA in which the emperor pledged the empire to the catholic faith which Damasus then interpreted as Rome. The term catholic is used in the sense of universal, not the limited form of later years. His propagation of a new Bible translation (Jerome's Vulgate) tended to upgrade his office and give the concept that it could do what other ecclesiastical offices could not do.

--Innocent I (d. 471) made sweeping claims for the power of the Roman bishop in the church. He argued from the ground of Apostolic Succession via apostolic tradition. He claimed Rome as the head of all western Christianity and himself to be the head bishop. He may not have been the first to think like this but he is one of the most open and blatant in public statement.

--Celestine I (d. 432) had an interest in missions, (sent Paladius to Ireland) and his mission outreach would put Roman "sons" in many ports. In face, the fealty of mission churches would become the feeding point of Roman strength in time to come. His work in Ireland is not to be confused, however, with that of Patrick.

--Leo I (d. 461) has been discussed but in this segment he was a powerful force for the western churches being under the authority of the Bishop of Rome.

--Felix III, (d. 492) gained a major triumph for the Roman bishopric by securing the condemnation of Arcadius, Bishop of Constantinople, as a monophysite. While the eastern church could not deny the error, it became a bone of contention with the western church and seemed to make the western church the more typically orthodox.

--Gelasius (d. 496) strongly uttered the idea that the Roman bishop was beyond the authority of kings and all imperial power. Only God had authority over the Bishop of Rome..and not much at that.

These represented aspirations not commonly agreed upon in the rank and file of the Christian community. Rome grew by degrees and due to the political survival, became the great ecclesiastical force in the west.