

8th of September as the "Feast of Mary." The Trullan Council of 692, following the general tenure of the times, brought into formal recognition and use the term Divine Virgin. (An eastern council)

Concepts such as the immaculate conception, etc., develop later as does the assumptive doctrine. The Marian cult is very widespread and is another example of how a true picture is easily distorted. Liberal Protestants, etc., have gone to another extreme, of course, and have ruled God completely out of the poor woman's life. With some pity and mild exasperation, we might say softly.. "Poor Mary!"

#### Monastic Life development

The increase in monasteries and monastics is dramatic in this period. Many new orders will arise in the ages before us but the growth of monastic communities is quite pronounced at this time. There is an increase among preaching monks and also among hermit monks. The monks of the eastern church are largely getting into more and more remote places (Sinai, for instance). In the west they tend to be in remote but accessible areas. Following are two examples of monastic development during this period:

#### Benedict of Nursia (480-542)

Benedict found an increasing indifference in the monastic orders of the west. He felt that the monastery should not be just a place of retreat but something such as a "military camp for the Lord's army." To him the monastery should have a martial significance: it should be self-supporting, self-sustaining, and under a rule of absolute and unquestioning obedience. The monks should see themselves as "soldiers of Christ." So to advance this idea he developed a new "rule" to make monastic life more practical and efficient in serving the needs of the church and the people.

The key factor in the new rule was unconditional obedience...to Christ first and to the head of the monastery as the one who most likely speaks the will of Christ to the inhabitants. The monastic head would show the same obedience to the fathers of the church. But throughout the entire chain, there was no room for insurgency or disobedience.