

Gregory I (d.604) is the last of these early spokesmen we shall mention and is perhaps the most important. An extremely able person he achieved:

- A national status for the Vatican
- The restoration of a public role in the life and worship of the church
- The required celibacy of the priests (An important move making their continuance dependent on the church.)
- The fuller uses of ceremonies and festivals including the Marian feasts.
- The conversion of the Arian Lombards to orthodox Christianity

2. Political Movements

While there are many of these in one form or another, a few of them dominate our thinking.

- a. The development of the Papal states
- b. The Frankish contribution: Pepin and Zachary, Bishop of Rome, and the political aligning.
- c. The ascendancy of Charlemagne (800) as King of the Romans and protector of the church.
- d. The appointment of Otto I as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (by John XII) in 962.

3. Of Bishops and Kings

This is almost like a modern novel but it is still history..the relations of the rulers in Europe and some key Roman Bishops. It is an integral part of the Holy Roman Empire story and it can only be discussed in fragments at this time as I mention some key bishops and the exercise and conflict of power.

- a. John XII and Otto I (Germany)

In brief, John a profligate for whom the office was bought when he was 16, bought off the attempt of Otto to bring him into submissions by giving him the imperial title, a prestige plum. Unfortunately, John sought to do this with another warrior and died before judgment could be brought on him. (d. 964) (title, ca. 962) It is a gruesome story