
MILLENNIUM MILESTONES that occurred Today in Church History

Historical Events in Church Annals for December 31st:

- 335 A.D.
- Death of **Pope Saint Sylvester I**, 33rd successor of Peter. This Roman-born pontiff was the first to wear the Tiara and called the First Ecumenical Council at Nicea where the "Creed" was formulated. It was St. Sylvester who instituted Sunday as the Sabbath in recognition of the Resurrection of **Our Lord**. Ever mindful of the passion, he established the "Iron Crown" using a nail from the Holy Cross founded by **Saint Helena** in Jerusalem during her son **Constantine's** reign.
- 431 A.D.
- Death of **Saint Melania the Younger**, daughter of a Roman Senator who endowed and founded monasteries for men and women in Numidia and the Holy Land. She is widely venerated by Latin Catholics in Constantinople and Jerusalem.
- 1378 A.D.
- Birth of **Alfonso de Borgia** in Jativa, Spain. He would go on to become a cardinal priest and the 209th successor of Peter on April 8, 1455 as **Pope Callistus III**. He would be responsible for the growth of Christianity in Scandinavia. It would be this Spanish-born pontiff who would order the ringing of the bells at midday each day, establishing the tradition of the *Angeles* and it was Callistus III who would institute the Feast of the Transfiguration.
- 1550 A.D.
- Birth of **Henri Guise**, French duke and leader of the Catholic League.
- 1929 A.D.
- **Pope Pius XI** releases his fourteenth encyclical *Rappresentanti in terra* on Christian education which would be published several months later with minor alterations to the Latin text *Divini illius magistri*.
- 1930 A.D.
- **Pope Pius XI** publishes his sixteenth encyclical *Casti connubii* on Christian marriage and the dangers of mixed marriages.

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