





# Councils

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- ➡ Nicaea accepted the creed as offered by Deacon Athanasius: from “ We believe in one God,... till His Kingdom shall have no end “
  - ➡ Pope Alexandros was the Pope then. The Bishop of Rome was not called Pope yet







# The council of Constantinople

- There was another heresy, that the **Holy Spirit was not equal to the Father and the Son**
- The Council in **381**, taught that all three are equal and added the last part of the Creed “ **We believe in the Holy Spirit...** Till: we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come “

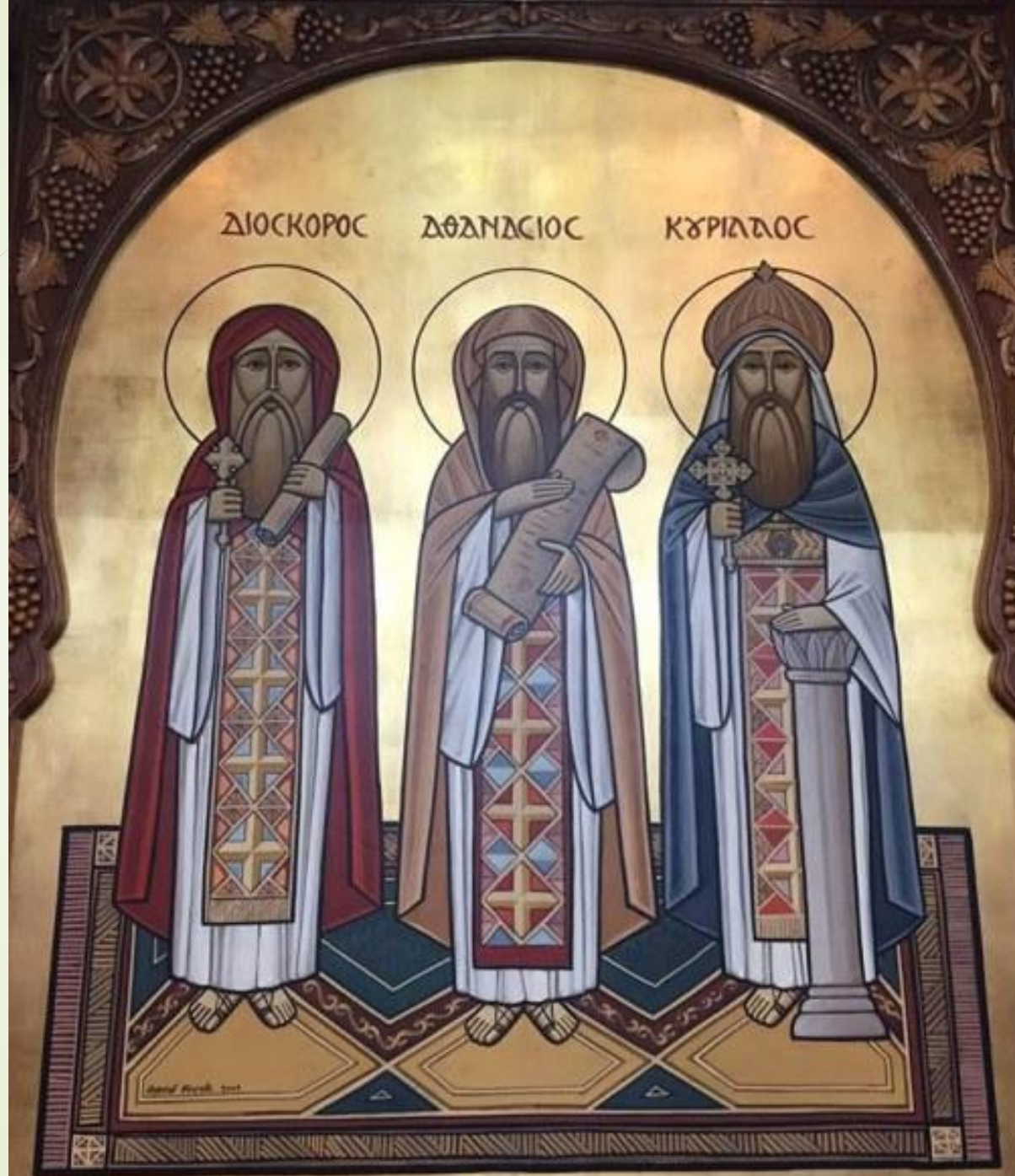
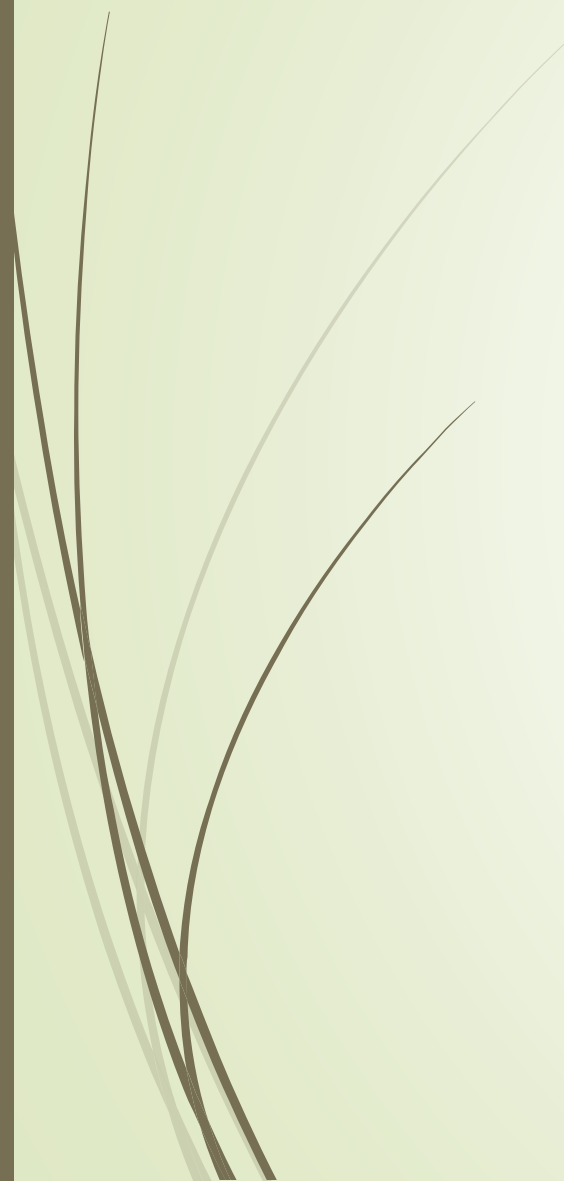
# The Council of Ephesus 431



- Nestorius taught that Jesus had 2 natures, and **refused to accept the term “ Theotokos “**
- **St Cyril**, the Pillar of Faith, led the council
- St Shenouda the archimandrite, was with him
- Taught that : **St Mary was the mother of Jesus, therefore she is the mother of the Son of God = The Theotokos**
- Nestorius, the Archbishop of Constantinople was ex communicated

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- The **term Theotokos is biblical** . Elizabeth said “ I am so favoured, that **the mother of my Lord come to me** “
  - Isaiah 9:6 prophesies about our Lord ” He will be called Mighty God “. So St Mary is the Mother of God
  - Simple , She is the mother of Jesus , and Jesus is God

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- ➡ Always be watchful, for unity, and correct faith
  - ➡ Especially at peace times !





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- ➡ **Eutyches** , an abbot of a large monastery, was against Nestorius. He taught that **the human nature of Jesus dissolved** , what was left was his Divine nature
  - ➡ He too was excommunicated, so he begged the emperor to remain in the church







## Ephesus 2

- Pope Dioscorus chaired that council in 449
- **Theodosius** was the Orthodox Emperor, who was a great supporter of St Dioscorus
- The Bishop of Rome did not attend
- Eutyches submitted a statement with the correct faith , contrary to what he taught before
- So the council accepted him back in the church

## FIRST FOUR ECUMENICAL COUNCILS (325, 380, 431, 450 C.E.)



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- ➡ **Flavian** – the bishop of Constantinople - then excommunicated Eutyches, he knew that he wasn't telling the truth
  - ➡ So Ephesus 2 ,  
**excommunicated Flavian**
  - ➡ He went to Bishop of Rome Leo, seeking protection



➡ P Leo

➡ Pulcharia



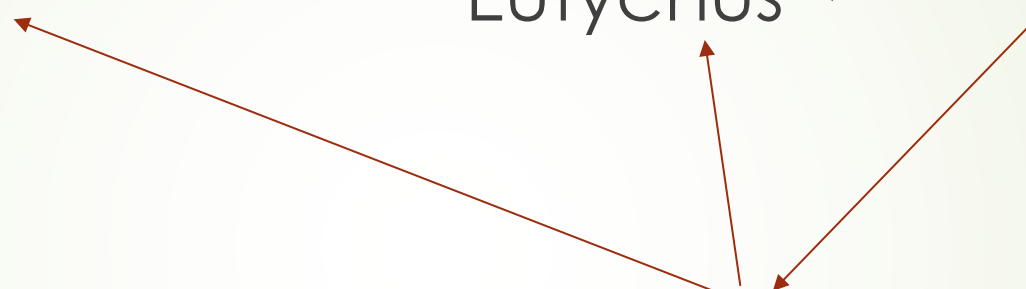
Nestorius

Eutychus

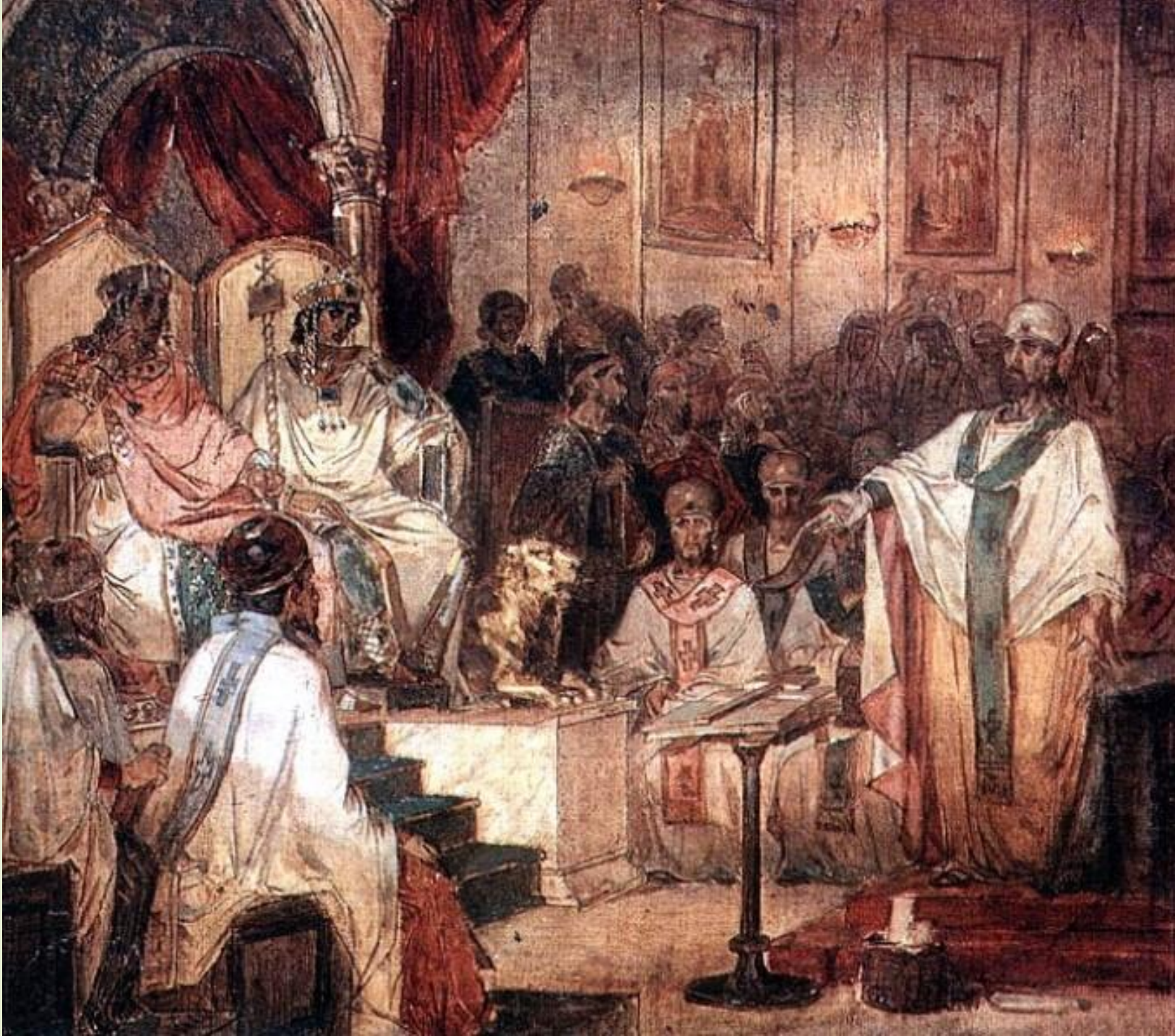
P Dioscorus

Flavian

Theodosius  
Died









So Eutychus out, Flavian in, Leo's Tome adopted, but it was all about deposing St Dioscorus, the Pharaoh of Egypt

## COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON (451 AD)



*TOME OF  
LEO*  
DEFINITION  
OF FAITH

FLAVIAN OF  
CONSTANTINOPLE



C. N/A - 449 AD





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- So a lot of tension between the church leaders
  - **Pope Dioscorus was called the Pharaoh of Egypt** as he was very powerful. **Constantinople wanted to break his power** and shift to where the emperor resided


## Territory of the Five Patriarchs in 381 AD





The Bishop of Constantinople, however,  
shall have the prerogative of honour after  
the Bishop of Rome;  
because Constantinople is New Rome."



(The Second Ecumenical Council, Constantinople, Canon III, 381 AD)



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- **Emperor Theodosius** who was a great support to Pope Dioscorus **died**
  - Empress **Pulcheria**, married Marcian, an army leader, who became the emperor. She wanted to break the power of Pope Dioscorus

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- ➡ She wanted Flavian the bishop of Constantinople to have the upper hand
  - ➡ Chalcedon was convened
  - ➡ Pope Dioscorus went with **St Macarius** ( one of the 3 St Makarioues mentioned in every mass )



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- ➡ Pope Dioscorus was outspoken, and very knowledgeable, very similar to St John Chrysostom
  - ➡ Pope D asked why another council
    - ➡ - To clarify the faith
    - ➡ - **but the faith of Athanasius and Cyril the Pillar of Faith remains unchanged**

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- Bishop Leo sent his Tome ( letter/ document ) that the Lord had two natures that were united
  - **St D repeated the analogy taught by S t Cyril, the iron united with fire, now a new one nature, neither iron alone nor fire alone**
  - **The hammering affected the human nature -the iron-, but the fire ( The divine nature ) did not suffer**

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- However, the divine never separated from the human nature
  - Some bishops were persuaded with Pope D teachings, so the emperor declared : Pope D is on trial, he is a follower of Eutyches
  - He was arrested, and it was decided to **exile** him, to a place north of Asia Minor

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- ➡ Politics went on in a big way
  - ➡ Who will out manoeuvre who
  - ➡ **Keep politics out of church**

# COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON

(451 AD)






DEPOSED ON  
**PROCEDURAL** GROUNDS  
(RATHER THAN **THEOLOGICAL** GROUNDS)

COUNCIL REALIZED  
HE DID NOT SHARE  
ERRONEOUS THOUGHTS  
OF EUTYCHES





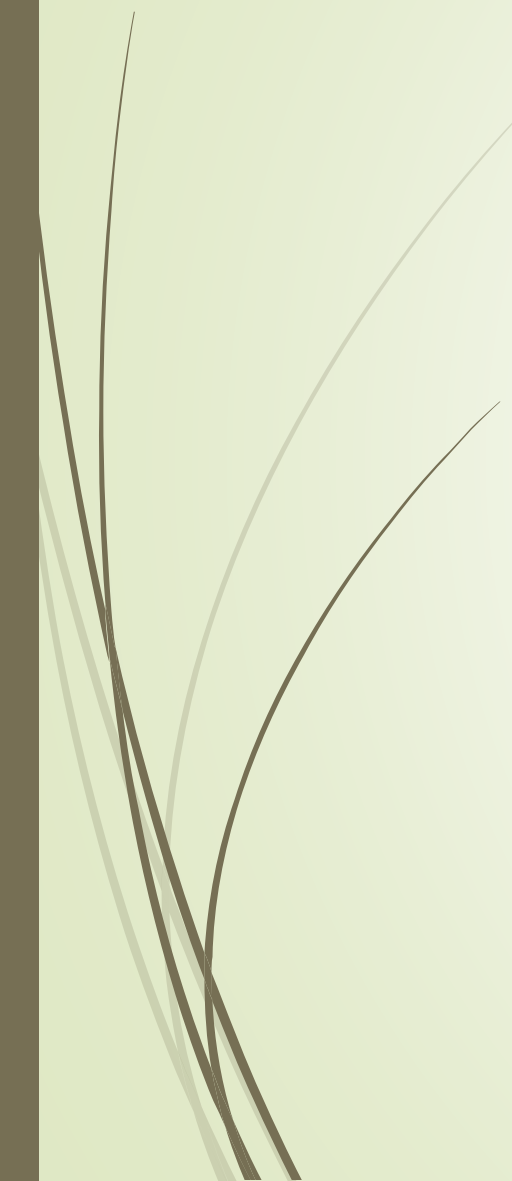
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- ➡ He lived there for 5 yrs and died
  - ➡ Pulcheria reminded Pope D that he is about to have the same fate as St John Chrysostom, he replied by reminding her that the empress who treated St John C also suffered nasty illness, and never recovered from her illness




She smacked him hard on the cheek, broke 2 of his teeth, the soldiers pulled the hair of his beard, he sent the teeth and the hair of his beard to his children in Egypt, “ **these are the fruit of keeping the faith** ”



## Chalcedon 451

- ➡ Led to the sad division of the church
  - ➡ On the surface the division was about theological matters, **but personalities and politics played a big role**
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- ➡ Chalcedon's outcome was concluded before it was convened
  - ➡ **P Dioscorus restricted the debate to the faith, but the empress and P Leo were talking politics**
  - ➡ **Outcome of Chalcedon, Constantinople and Rome are Equal, Alexandria relegated, P D deposed**

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- The division of opinion around the nature of Christ has ended.

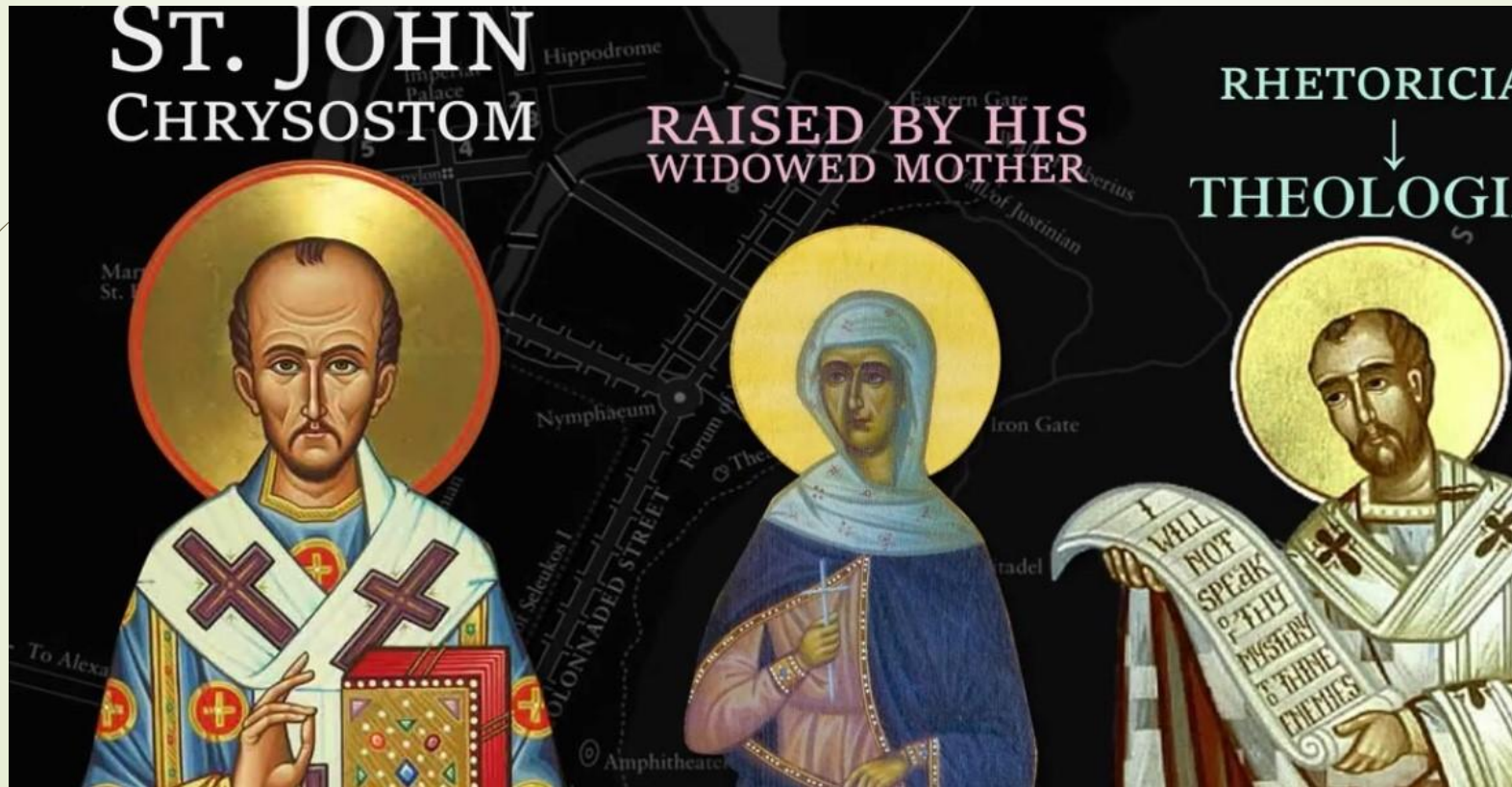
**Recent careful analysis of the teaching of the Eastern church and Rome proved that actually there was no difference , only different formulas , but the faith is the same**

- Personality clashes, and power struggle played a big role in all this



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- ➡ Sad...sad...sad
  - ➡ Till 451 , the whole Christian world was one, division started

A giant who departed early in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century- amazing mother, brilliant lawyer, best preacher in early church

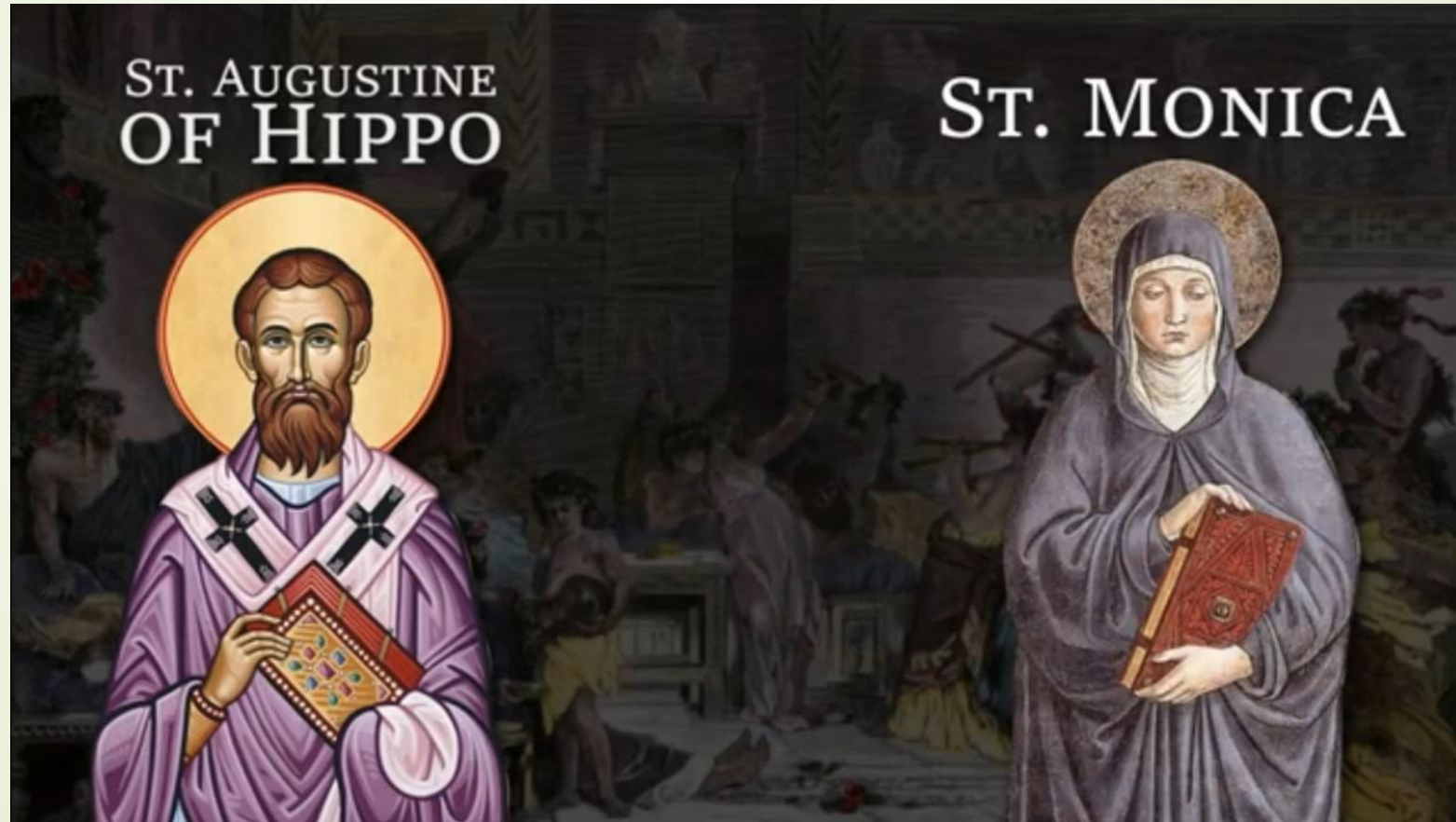


Had to tell the empress off for wrong doings, spent 7 years in exile walking all days in the mountains, yet sermons full of peace

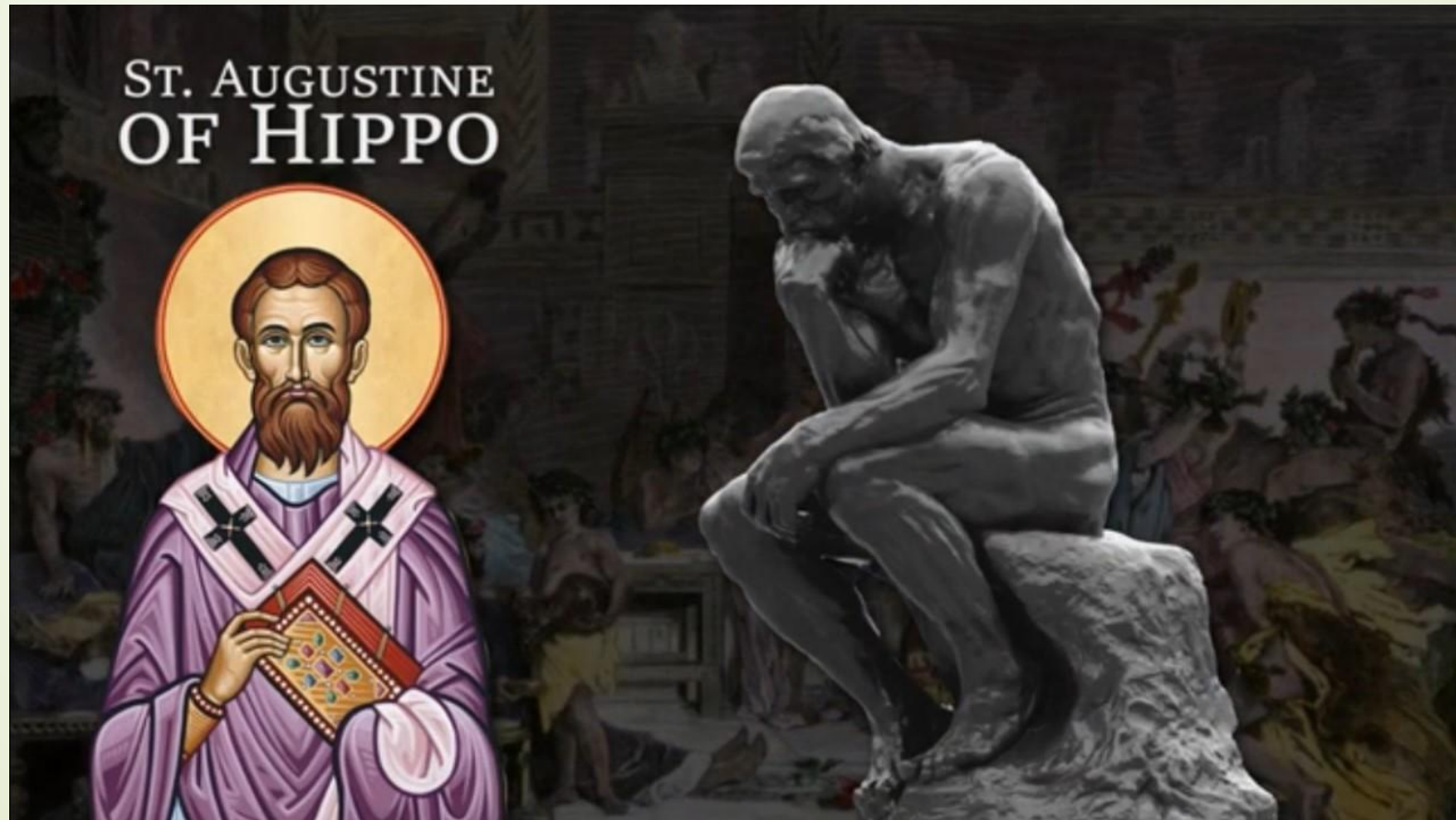






The son of tears, St Monica prayed for years, the brilliant philosopher repented-  
early 5<sup>th</sup> century



From an hedonistic life to a bishop,  
dubbed the second Paul by the  
Catholic church,





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- ➡ Pray... Pray... Pray
  - ➡ Prayers change things

## The church remained prayerful and strong



*Once a man was asked, "what did you gain by regularly praying to God?" The man replied, "Nothing...but let me tell you what I lost: anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity, and fear of death." Sometimes the answer to our prayers is not gaining but losing; which ultimately is the gain. -Anonymous*

And Evangelical..

