

Atticus of Constantinople

Saint Atticus

Late 3rd century – 425 A.D.

Constantinople

Feast Day November 6

Atticus of Constantinople was born in Sebaste (Sivas), Armenia and was educated by a heretical sect of Macedonian monks. At an early age, he traveled to Constantinople where he converted to Christianity and was ordained. Atticus and another priest succeeded in deposing St. John Chrysostom from the See (Ecumenical Patriarch- Archbishop) of Constantinople in 405. He succeeded St. John Chrysostom as the Patriarch in 406 and was recognized by Pope St. Innocent I. At first, Atticus was not accepted by St. John Chrysostom's bishops. A large percentage of Christians refused communion from Atticus and held their religious assemblies outside. To regain the church, Atticus had to re-insert St. John Chrysostom's name in the diptychs (tablets), change his attitude and increase his charity to the poor. These actions

gradually increased his popularity with the people. Pope Celestine I deemed him to be the "true successor of Chrysostom." Atticus gained more popularity by atoning for his ambition and the ill-gotten promotion by driving the Messalians from Pamphylia and his opposition to the belief that original sin does not taint human nature and that mortal will is capable of choosing good or evil without special divine aid. Atticus died in Constantinople on October 10, 425. His feast day is in November 6.

St. Atticus was not canonized – he was proclaimed a saint by early Christians. Canonization did not begin until the 12th century.

