

been preserved in the acts of the Council of Chalcedon; in it, Peter admonishes Eutyches to accept the ruling of the synod and to give obedience to the Bishop of Rome as the successor of Saint Peter. In the eight century, Felix of Ravenna, preserved nearly two hundred of Saint Peter's sermons.

Saint Peter died around the year 450 or later, when on a visit to his birthplace. Older reference books say he died on December 2, but a more recent interpretation of the ninth-century "Liber Pontificalis Ecclesiae Ravennatis" indicated that he died on July 31. When in 1729, he was declared a Doctor of the Church, his feast day, which was not included in the Tridentine Calendar, was inserted in the Roman Catholic calendar of saints for celebration on December 4. In 1969, his feast was moved to July 30, as close as possible to the day of his death, July 31, which is occupied by the feast day of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

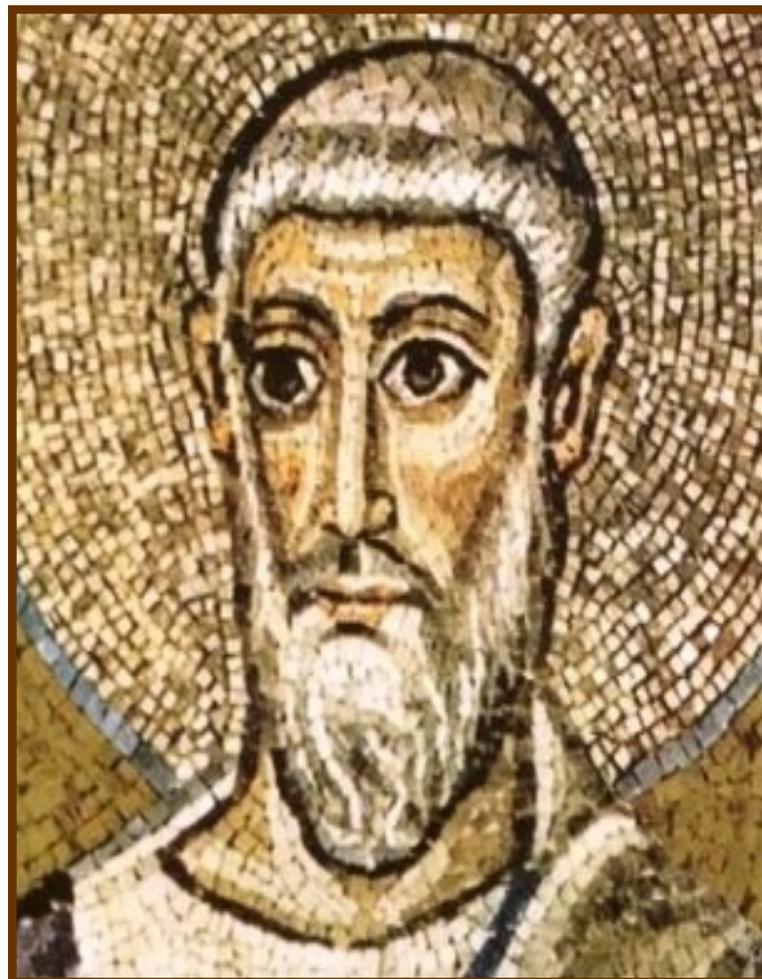
A contemporary portrait of Saint Peter Chrysologus is found in the mosaics of the Church of San Giovanni Evangelista in Ravenna, where he is depicted among the members of the eastern and western imperial family, showing his extraordinary influence.

*(EXCERPTED FROM: WWW.CATHOLIC.ORG; WWW.CATHOLICCULTURE.ORG)

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinspire.com

Saint Peter Chrysologus

Feast Day: December 4



"The man of golden speech"

Saint Peter Chrysologus

*Saint Peter Chrysologus ("the man of golden speech") was a Bishop and Doctor of the Church. He earned the title of Doctor for his eloquent sermons, of which some two hundred remain. Born at Imola, Italy about the year 400, Saint Peter was baptized, educated and ordained a deacon by Cornelius, Bishop of Imola. In 433, Pope Sixtus III consecrated him bishop of Ravenna. He practiced many corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and ruled his flock with utmost diligence and care. He extirpated the last vestiges of paganism and other abuses that had sprouted among his people, cautioning them especially against indecent dancing. "Anyone who wishes to frolic with the devil," he remarked, "cannot rejoice with Christ." He also counseled the heretic Eutyches (who had asked for his support) to avoid causing division but to learn from the other heretics who were all crushed when they hurled themselves against the Rock of Peter. He died at Imola, Italy in 450 and in 1729, was made a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XIII, largely as a result of his simple, practical and clear sermons, which have come down to us, nearly all dealing with Gospel subjects.

After being ordained a deacon by Cornelius, Bishop of Imola, Saint Peter was made an arch deacon through the influence of Emperor Valentinian III who resided in Ravenna and was also highly regarded by Pope Saint Leo the Great, the successor of Pope Sixtus. Pope Sixtus III, appointed Peter to the See of Ravenna in about the year 433, apparently rejecting the candidate elected by the people of the city. The traditional account, as recorded in the Roman Breviary, is that

Sixtus had a vision of Saint Peter and Saint Apollinaris, the first bishops of Rome and Ravenna respectively, who showed Sixtus a young man and said he was to be the next Bishop of Ravenna. When the group from Ravenna arrived, including Cornelius and his archdeacon Peter from Imola, Sixtus recognized Peter as the young man in his vision and consecrated him as bishop.

Known as the doctor of Homilies, Peter was known for his short but inspired talks; he is said to have been afraid of boring his audience. After hearing his first sermon as bishop, Empress Galla Placidia is said to have given him the surname Chrysologus, by which he is known. Galla Placidia was to become the patroness of many of Peter's projects. Peter spoke against the Arian and Monophysite teachings, condemning them as heresies, and explained topics such as the Apostles' Creed, John the Baptist, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the mystery of the Incarnation, in simple and clear language. Peter advocated daily reception of Holy Communion. He urged his listeners to have confidence in the forgiveness offered through Christ.

He was a counselor of Pope Leo I. The monophysite Eutyches appealed to intervene with the pope on his behalf after he was denounced at a synod held in Constantinople in 448. The text of Peter's letter in response to Eutyches has