



Father Z observes that everybody has his favorite Church. This is his, The Basilica of Saint John Lateran, in Rome Italy. St. John Lateran is Christendom's earliest basilica. Ordered by Rome's first Christian Emperor, Constantine the Great, it became the Popes' own cathedral and official residence for the first millennium of Christian history. Today, standing before the basilica's ponderous eighteenth-century facade, assailed by ear-splitting Roman traffic snarls on every side, we can hardly imagine this as the cradle of our religious heritage.

A visitor should glance upwards. Towering against the (usually) cobalt-blue Roman sky, a 7-meter high statue of Christ, flanked by saints and doctors of the Church, triumphantly displays the Cross of Redemption.

It was to Jesus the Savior that Constantine dedicated the original church, confirming Christ's superiority over the Capital's pagan gods and assuring the worldwide expansion of the Christian religion.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE BECOMES CHRISTIAN

**Mon. 11/10** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer**  
 Feast Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church  
 8:00 AM Mass Phillip Petrunak, Birthday, *Family*

**Tues. 11/11** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases**  
 Feast Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop  
 8:00 AM Mass Crystal Cochran, *Bear and Patty McCloskey*

**Wed. 11/12** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis**  
 Feast Saint Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr  
 8:00 AM Mass Cecilia Hollern, *Jim Riley*

**Thur. 11/13** **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders**  
 Feast Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin  
 Health of Pat Byrne, *Mary Siefert*  
 8:00 AM Mass **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders**

**Fri. 11/14** Weekday  
 Feast Joseph Lutchko, *Estate of Wife Mary*  
 8:00 AM Mass **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes**

**Sat. 11/15** Thirty -Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Feast Donald Cassarly, Birthday, *Paul and Adaline Cassarly*  
 4:30 PM Mass **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions**

**Sun. 11/16** Thirty -Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Feast Vince Farabaugh, *Family*  
 9:00 AM Mass Tom Byrne, Birthday Ann 11/13, *Wife and Family*  
 11:00 AM Mass Our Lady of Fatima Parish Family

*Lord  
 Jesus  
 Christ  
 Son  
 Of  
 God  
 Have  
 Mercy  
 On  
 Me  
 A  
 Sinner*

**Happy Birthday:**

11/12 Marcella Ianniello  
 11/15 Mark Byrne

**Wedding Anniversaries :**

*Practice for the Christmas Vigil Choir will occur on all Tuesdays beginning October 28th. Each rehearsal will be from 6.00 to 7:00 P.M. The Choir will be made up of volunteers from ages 9 to 99. Please join in and praise Our New Born King on December 24th!*

*Our Lady of Fatima Pleaded That we  
 pray the Holy Rosary Daily  
 At O.L.F. before each Mass and privately  
 from 8:30am to 7:00pm*

**MONEY MATTERS**

**(The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, Sunday November 2, 2014)**

166 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 1,882.00 of which \$ 264.00 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	186	# Used	74	# Unused	112
Collection One Year Ago = \$	2,346,25	ACCS = \$80.00		BOSCOV'S = \$245.00	

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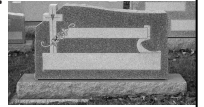
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With the ascent of Constantine as Emperor of Rome (306-337), the days of bloody Christian persecutions (see *Inside the Vatican*, January 1996) came to an end. Placed at first on an equal footing with paganism, Christianity soon became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Constantine was the son of Constantius I, Roman Emperor of the West (305-6), and Helena, a woman of obscure origins, whose fervent conversion to Christianity, and legendary: finding of the True Cross, won her sainthood. After defeating his rival Maxentius, son of an earlier emperor Maximian (286-305), at the Milvian Bridge in Rome. (312), Constantine established himself as the undisputed ruler of the Western Empire.

The night before this battle, Constantine's earliest biographer Eusebius tells us, the emperor saw a cross of light in the heavens and the words *In Hoc Signo Vincas* ("by this sign you shall conquer"). His soldiers went into battle bearing the Christian monogram on their shields, rather than the Roman eagle, and a standard of Christ's cross carried before them. From that time, as he won battle after battle and consolidated his rule over the empire in East and West (324), the Emperor claimed to be fighting in Jesus' name, as the champion of the Christian faith.

The Edict of Milan (313) secured Christians' freedom and legal recognition. By imperial edicts, Constantine restored Christians' property and strengthened the Church hierarchy (without giving too much offense to Rome's influential pagans!). He ordered basilicas built over the *cellae memoriae* marking St. Peter's, St. Paul's, and other martyrs' tombs. And he donated his personal property, received in dowry from his wife, for the first papal cathedral and residence in Christian history. So begins the story of St. John Lateran.

It was to Pope Melchiade (311-314) that Constantine gave the palace on Monte Celio, formerly property of the patrician Laterani family (hence the basilica's appellation "Lateran"), which his second wife Fausta (Maxentius' sister) had brought to the marriage. Soon after, the Emperor razed the adjoining imperial horse-guards barracks (allegedly the *equites singulares* had supported Maxentius against Constantine) and commissioned the construction of the world's first Christian basilica on that site.

Henceforth, the Lateran palace, known as the Patriarchate, was the Pope's official residence until the fifteenth century.

Many important historic events have taken place in St. John Lateran, including 5 Ecumenical Councils and many diocesan synods. In 1929 the Lateran Pacts, which established the territory and status of the State of Vatican City, were signed here between the Holy See and the Government of Italy.

The offices of the Cardinal Vicar of Rome now occupy the Lateran Palace. On July 27, 1992, a bomb explosion devastated the facade of the Rome Vicariate at St. John Lateran. The attack is widely assumed to have been the work of the Italian Mafia, a warning against Pope John Paul II's frequent anti-Mafia statements. Repairs were recently completed.

