

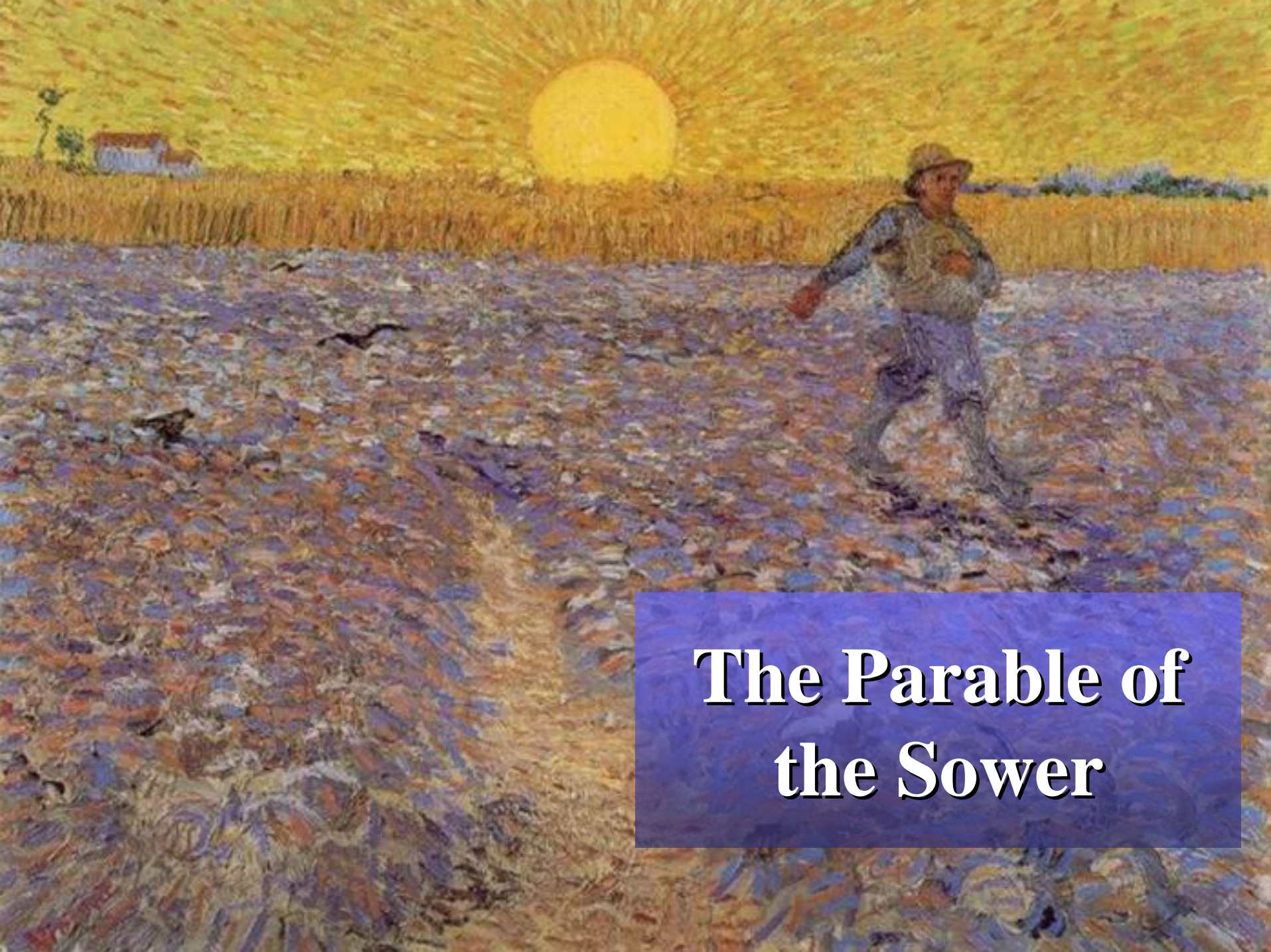
# Church History Literacy

## St. Benedict – Part 1 Background to Monasticism

### Lesson 36

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

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# The Parable of the Sower

A painting depicting a sower walking through a field of seeds. The sower is wearing a hat and a long-sleeved shirt, and is carrying a bag of seeds. The field is filled with seeds, and several birds are shown eating the seeds. In the background, there is a large sun and a small house on a hill. The painting is done in a style with visible brushstrokes and a warm, golden color palette.

**Birds devour**

**The Parable of  
the Sower**

A painting of a sower in a field at sunset. The sun is a large, bright yellow circle in the sky, with rays of light. The field is filled with golden wheat. In the background, there is a small barn with a red roof. A sower, wearing a hat and a long coat, is walking across the field, scattering seeds. The ground is covered with a mix of brown and blue tones, suggesting the soil and the seeds.

**Birds devour**

**Poor roots**

**The Parable of  
the Sower**

A painting of a sower in a field under a bright sun. The sower is wearing a hat and a long-sleeved shirt, and is walking across a field of low-lying plants. The sun is large and bright, with rays extending across the sky. In the background, there is a small house and a tree. The overall scene is a rural landscape.

**Birds devour**

**Poor roots**

**Choked by thorns**

**The Parable of  
the Sower**

A painting of a sower in a field under a bright sun. The sower is walking from right to left, scattering seeds. The field is filled with various types of plants, some of which are thorny. The sun is large and bright, casting a long shadow. In the background, there is a small house and a tree. The overall scene is a parable of the sower.

**Birds devour**

**Poor roots**

**Choked by thorns**

**Fruitful**

**The Parable of  
the Sower**

The image shows the ruins of the Temple of Antonine and Faustina in Rome, Italy. The temple's remains, including several standing Corinthian columns and a section of the entablature, are the central focus. In the background, modern buildings and a clear sky are visible. The foreground shows a paved walkway with some people. Four semi-transparent grey boxes with white text are overlaid on the left side of the image, and a larger one is on the bottom right.

**Birds devour**

**Poor roots**

**Choked by thorns**

**Fruitful**

**Especially true in  
ancient Rome**







# Monasticism





# Monasticism

(Monks &  
nuns)





# Monasticism

(Monks &  
nuns)

1. Secularization of the church





# Monasticism

(Monks &  
nuns)

1. Secularization of the church
2. Rise of monasticism





# Monasticism

(Monks &  
nuns)

1. Secularization of the church
2. Rise of monasticism





1. Secularization of the church



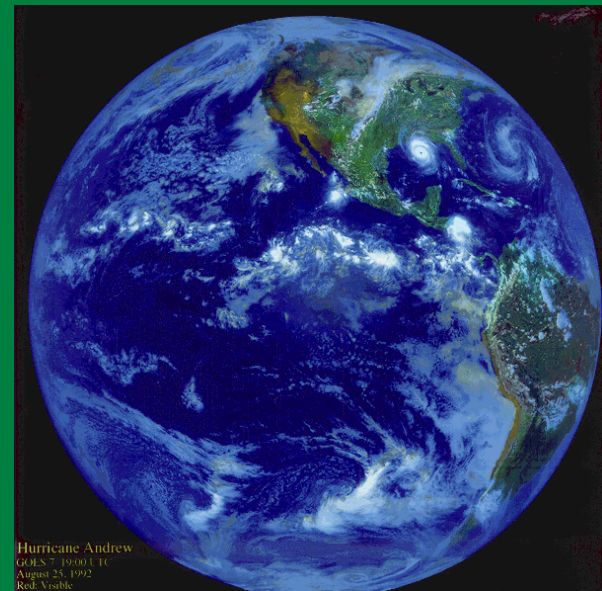


# 1. Secularization of the church





# 1. Secularization of the church







# 1. Secularization of the church





# 1. Secularization of the church



The church  
becomes part of  
the world culture

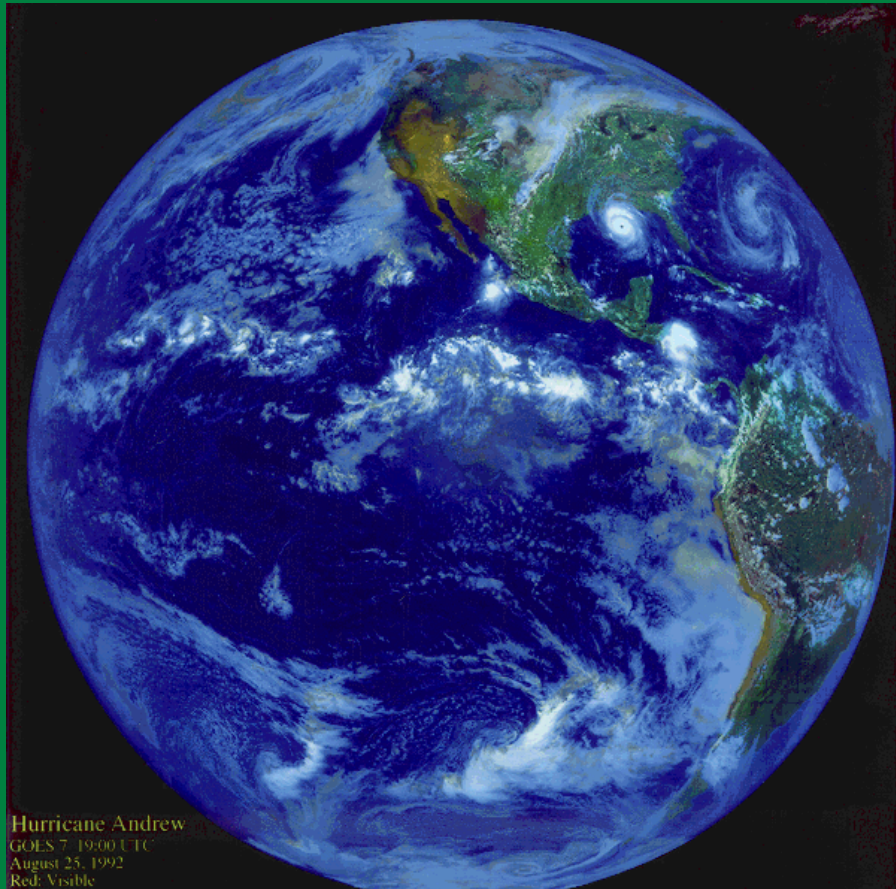


# 1. Secularization of the church



The church  
becomes part of  
the world culture

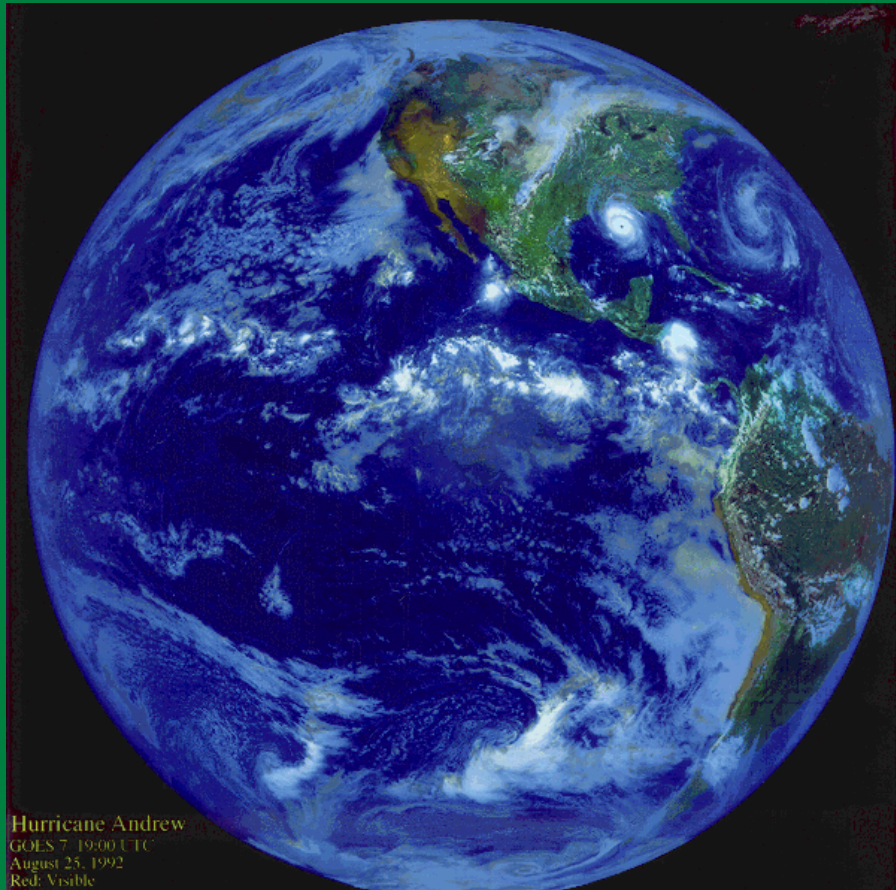
# The church becomes secular



Hurricane Andrew  
GOES 7, 19:00 UTC  
August 25, 1992  
Red: Visible

# The church becomes secular

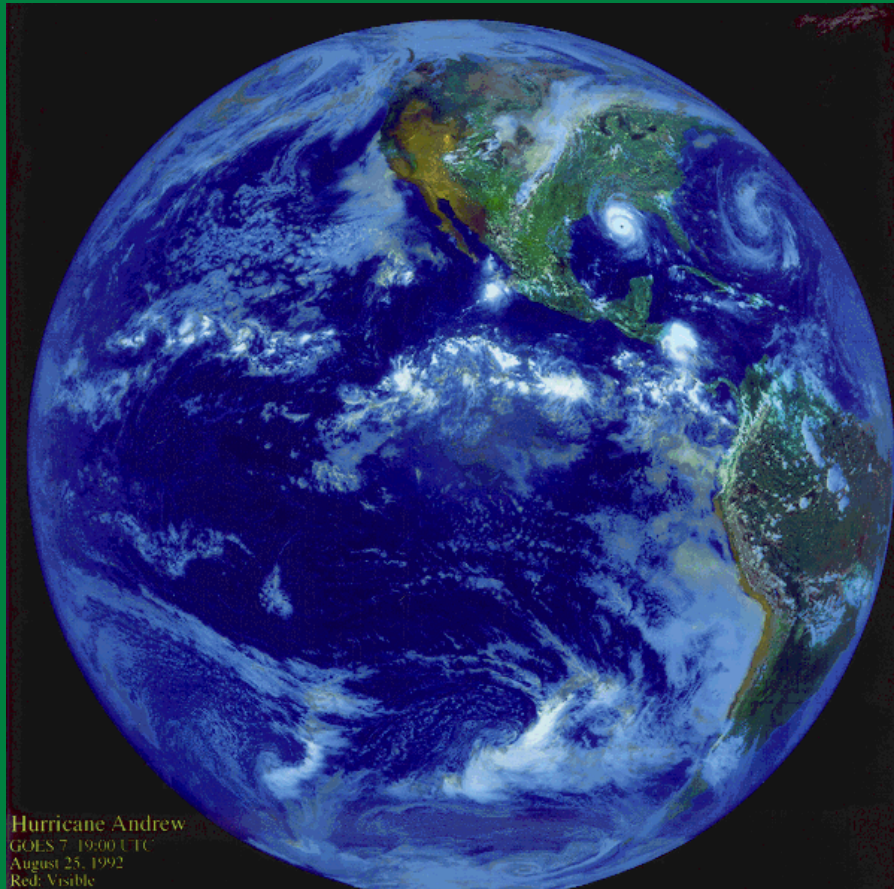
Effects on the  
world?



Hurricane Andrew  
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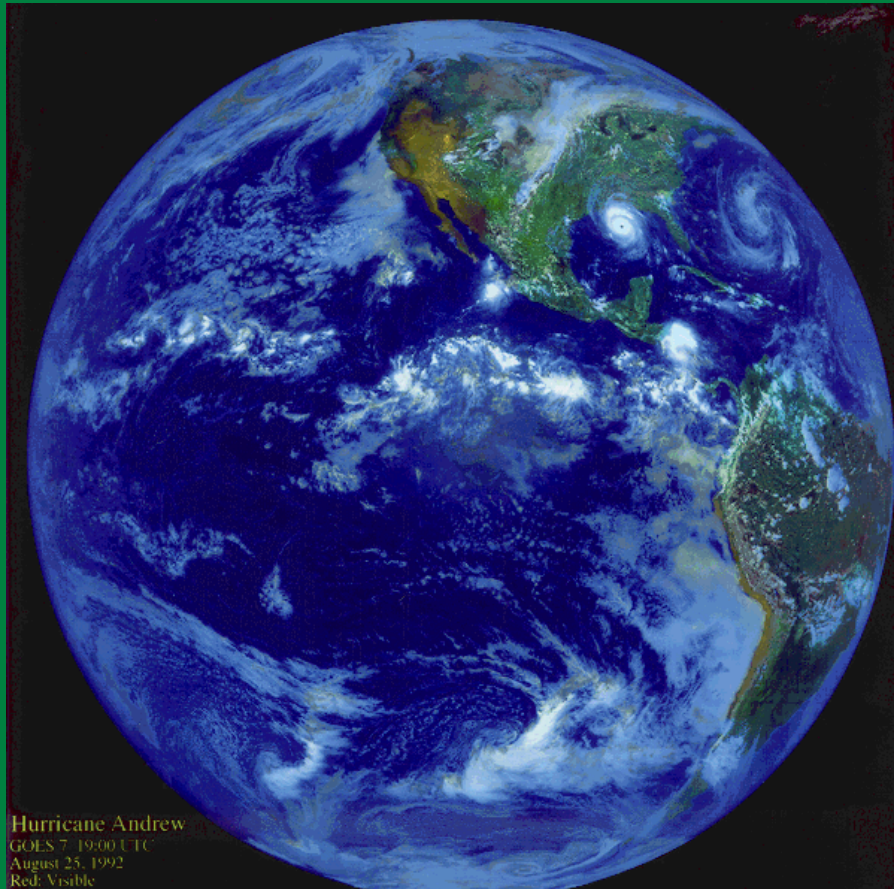
# The church becomes secular

Effects on the  
world?



# The church becomes secular

Effects on the world?



# The church becomes secular





# The church becomes secular



For the church?

# The church becomes secular



For the church?



# The church becomes secular



For the church?

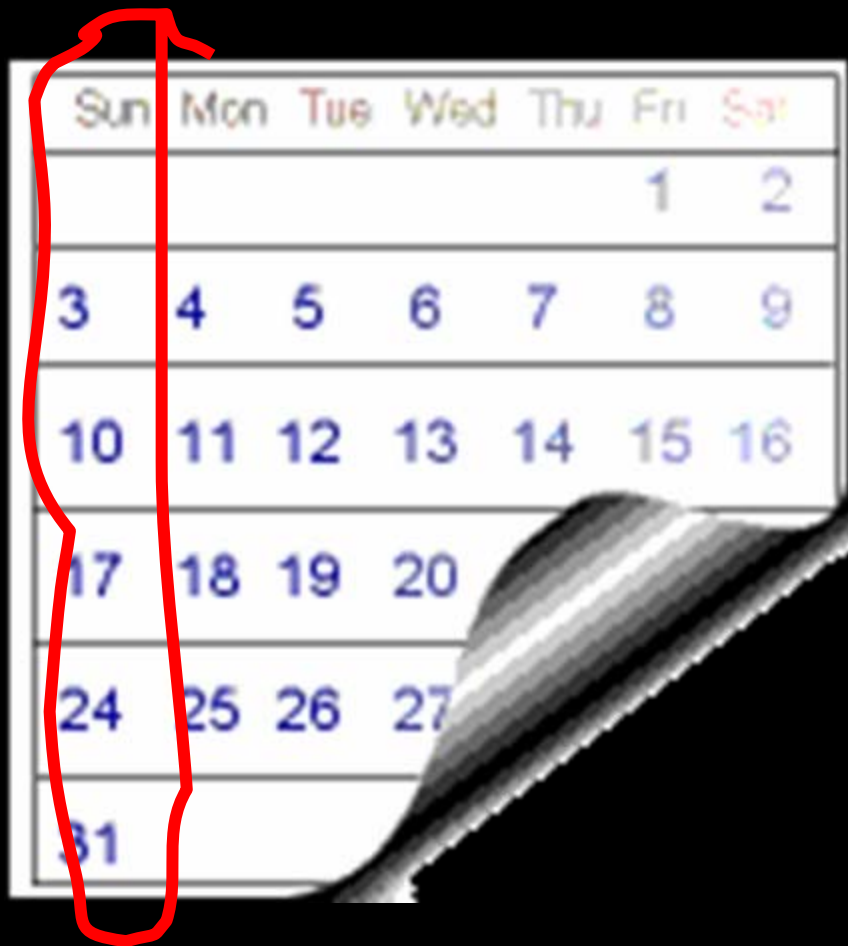




Where the secular  
church was good  
for the **world**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20			
24	25	26	27			
31						

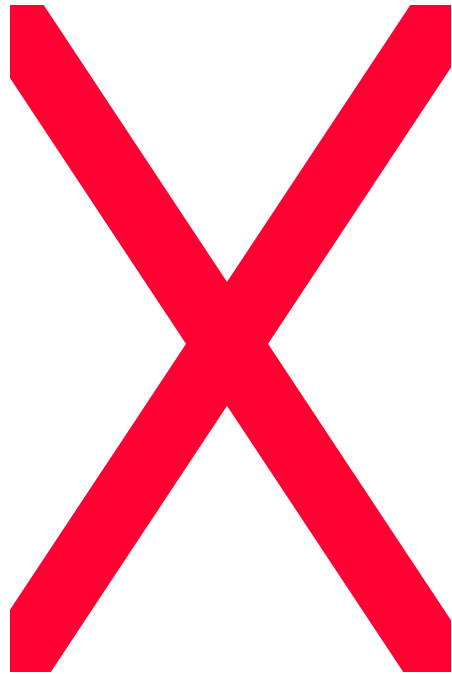
Constantine  
declares Sunday  
a holiday



A calendar grid showing the days of the week and dates. The days of the week are listed at the top: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. The dates are listed in rows below. A red outline highlights the Sunday column, which contains the dates 1, 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. The calendar is partially obscured by a dark, curved shape on the right side.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20			
24	25	26	27			
31						

Constantine  
declares Sunday  
a holiday



People are seen  
as equals (well,  
kind of,  
anyway)

Women got  
many new rights







Women got  
many new rights

- Property



# Women got many new rights

- Property
- Dressing codes



# Women got many new rights

- Property
- Dressing codes
- Rape laws



# Women got many new rights

- Property
- Dressing codes
- Rape laws
- Guardianship of children

Children got a  
few new rights





# Children got a few new rights

- Infanticide illegal



# Children got a few new rights

- Infanticide illegal
- Abandonment and selling still legal



Gladiator  
fighting laws  
changed



Gladiator  
fighting laws  
changed





Where the secular  
church was  
advantageous for  
the church



The church gets  
“corporate”  
status



# The church gets “corporate” status

- Owns property

# The church gets “corporate” status

- Owns property



The clergy gets  
special  
treatment



# The clergy gets special treatment

- Taxation



# The clergy gets special treatment

- Taxation
- Military exemption







Many “positives”  
were also  
“negatives”



# The church gets “corporate” status

- Owns property



# The church gets “corporate” status

- Owns property
- So why tithe?



# The church gets “corporate” status

- Owns property
- So why tithe?
- Opulence has an effect

# The clergy gets special treatment

- Taxation
- Military exemption



# The clergy gets special treatment

- Taxation
- Military exemption
- The call of \$\$ not of God





The “professors”  
greatly increase in  
number



The “professors”  
greatly increase in  
number





The “professors”  
greatly increase in  
number

- The “socials”



The “professors”  
greatly increase in  
number

- The “socials”
- The “soldiers”

# The soldiers' prayer:





# The soldiers' prayer:

To you we all come to supplicate for our Emperor Constantine and for his God beloved sons: That he may be kept safe and victorious for us in long, long life we plead.



# Monasticism

(Monks &  
nuns)

1. Secularization of the church
2. Rise of monasticism





# Monasticism

(Monks &  
nuns)

1. Secularization of the church
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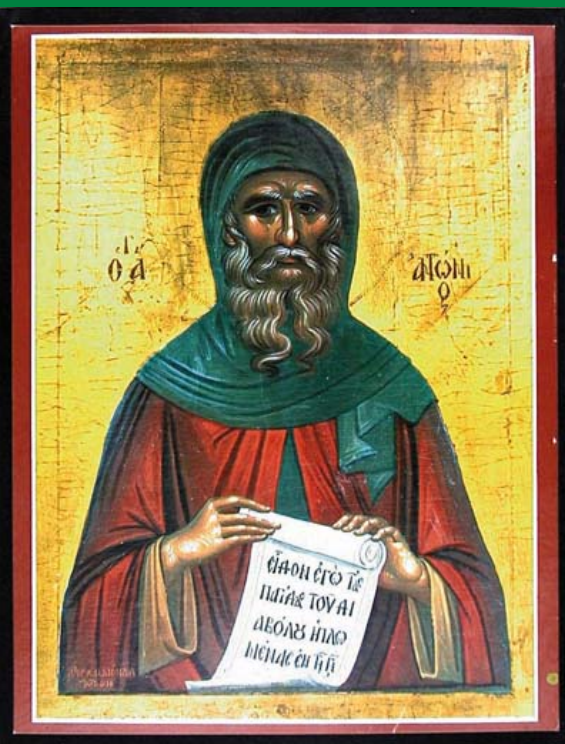


2. Rise of monasticism





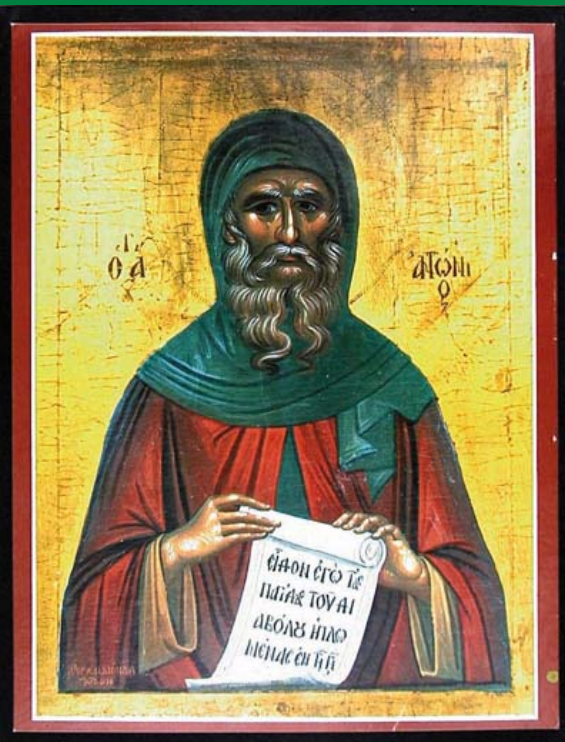
## 2. Rise of monasticism





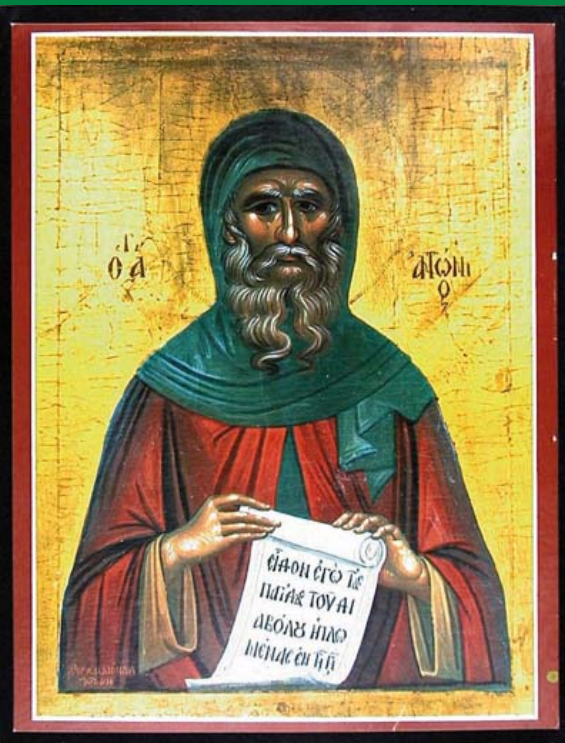


## 2. Rise of monasticism



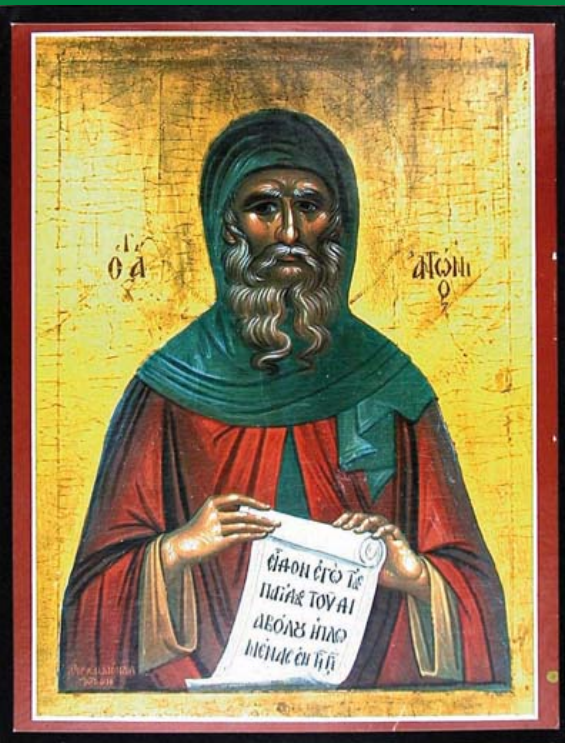


## 2. Rise of monasticism



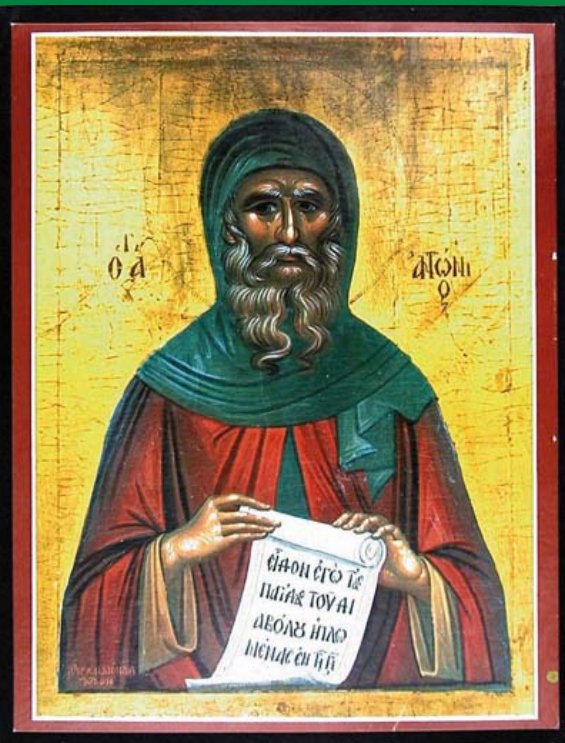


## 2. Rise of monasticism





## 2. Rise of monasticism



The purpose: To  
grow in loving  
God

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father ....”

The purpose: To  
grow in loving  
God

A large, blank, cream-colored scroll with a dark green background. The scroll is positioned on the left side of the image, with its top and bottom edges curled. The background is a solid dark green color.

The purpose: To  
grow in loving  
God

- Vows of poverty

“Blessed are you  
who are poor, for  
yours is the  
kingdom of God”  
Lk 6:20

The purpose: To  
grow in loving  
God

- Vows of poverty



“Blessed are you  
who are poor, for  
yours is the  
kingdom of God”

Lk 6:20

“One thing you  
lack... Go sell  
everything you  
have and give to  
the poor.”

Mk 10:21

The purpose: To  
grow in loving  
God

- Vows of poverty

“Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me”

# The purpose: To grow in loving God

- Vows of poverty



The purpose: To  
grow in loving  
God

- Vows of poverty
- of Chastity

“Are you  
unmarried? Do not  
look for a wife”

1 Cor. 7:27

The purpose: To  
grow in loving  
God

- Vows of poverty
- of Chastity

“Are you  
unmarried? Do not  
look for a wife”

1 Cor. 7:27

“Now about virgins  
... I think that it is  
good for you to  
remain as you are”

1 Cor. 7:25-26

# The purpose: To grow in loving God

- Vows of poverty
- of Chastity

“Are you  
unmarried? Do not  
look for a wife”

1 Cor. 7:27

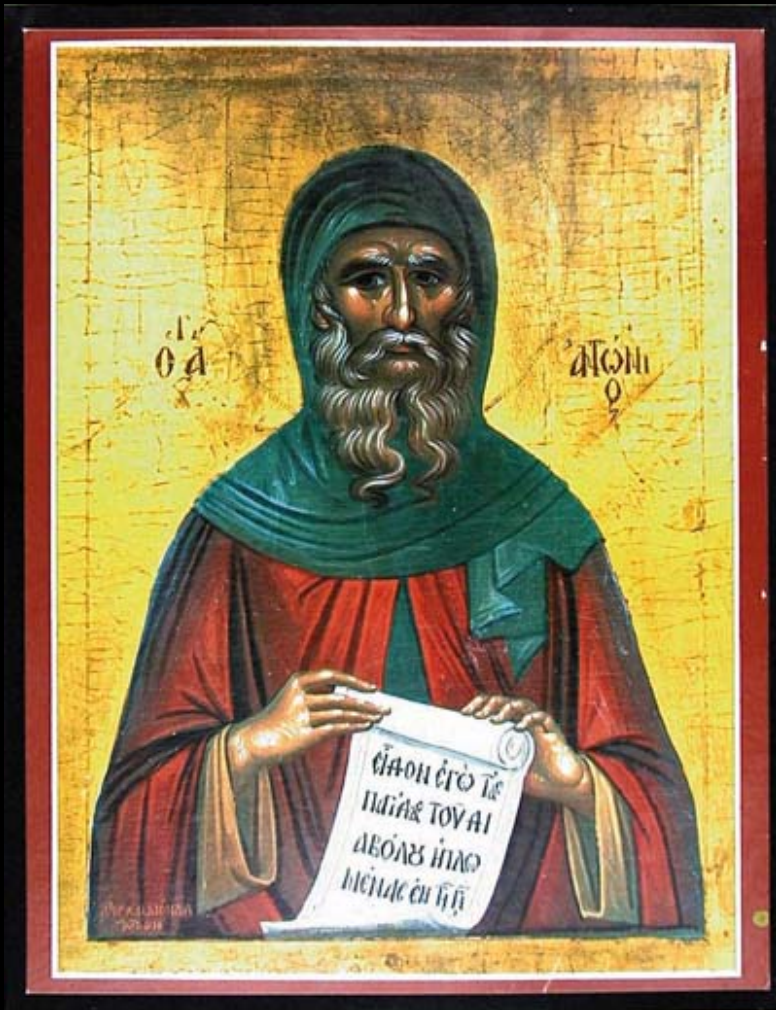
“Now about virgins  
... I think that it is  
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1 Cor. 7:25-26

# The purpose: To grow in loving God

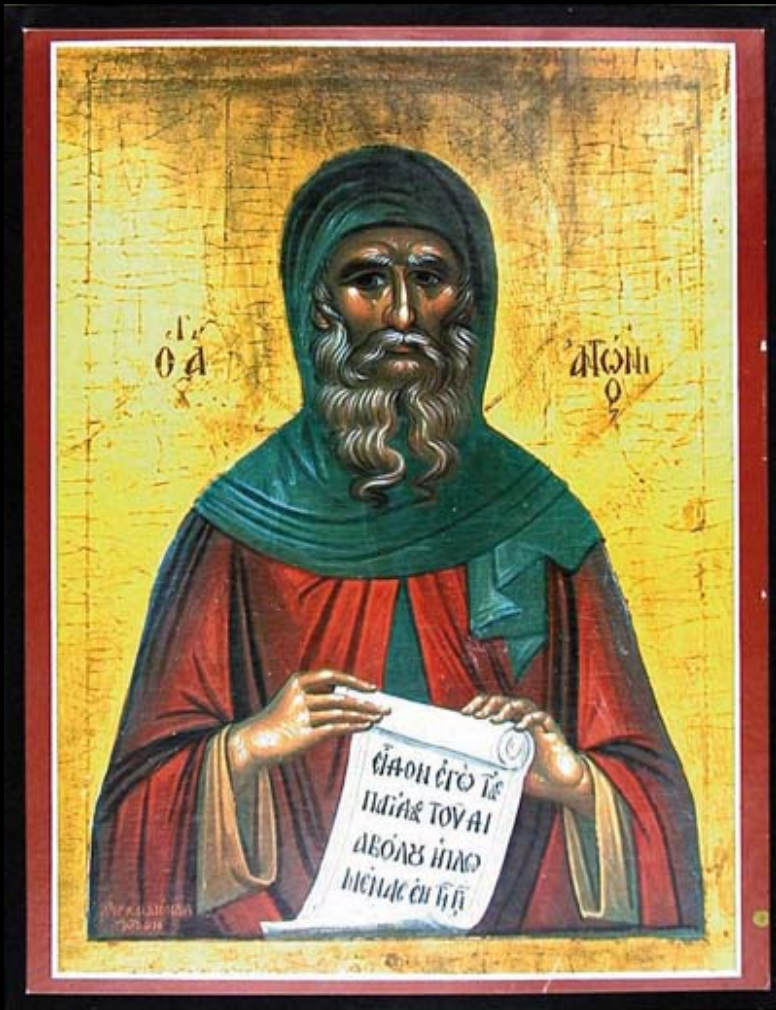
- Vows of poverty
- of Chastity
- of obedience

Many hermits  
were  
impressive,  
many were  
bizarre



Many hermits  
were  
impressive,  
many were  
bizarre

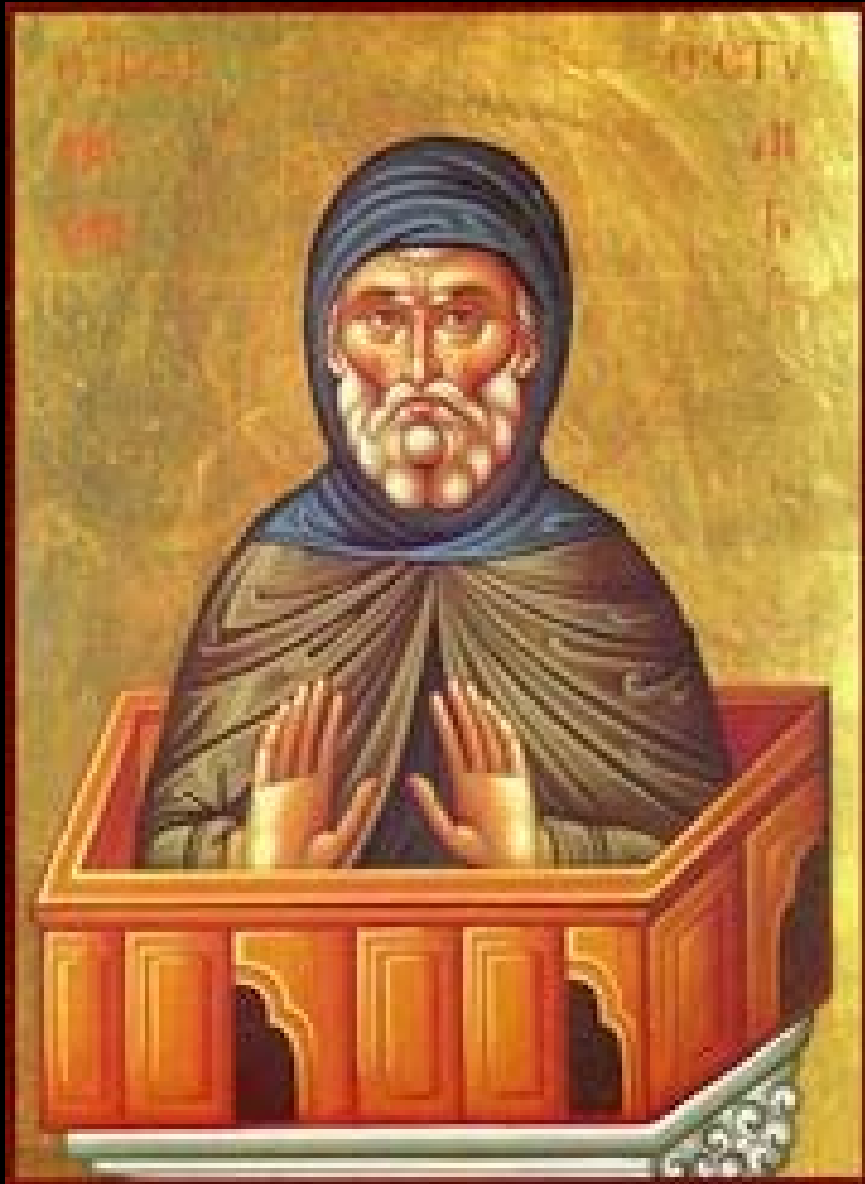
- St. Antony





# St. Paul the Simple

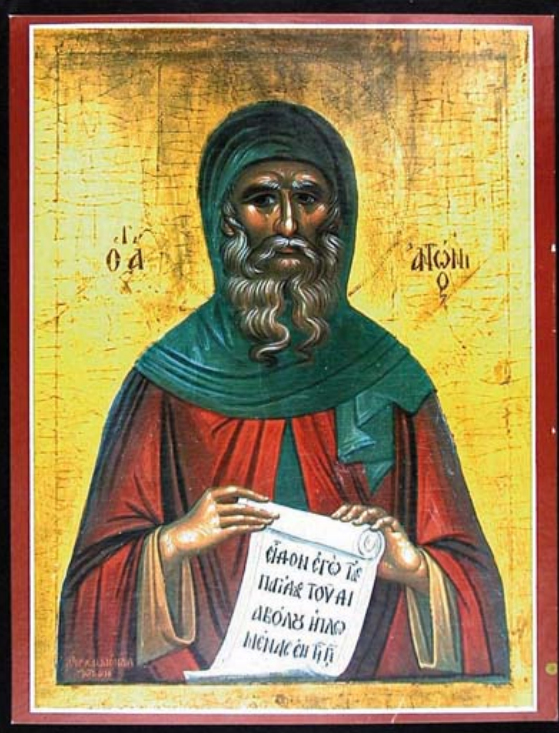




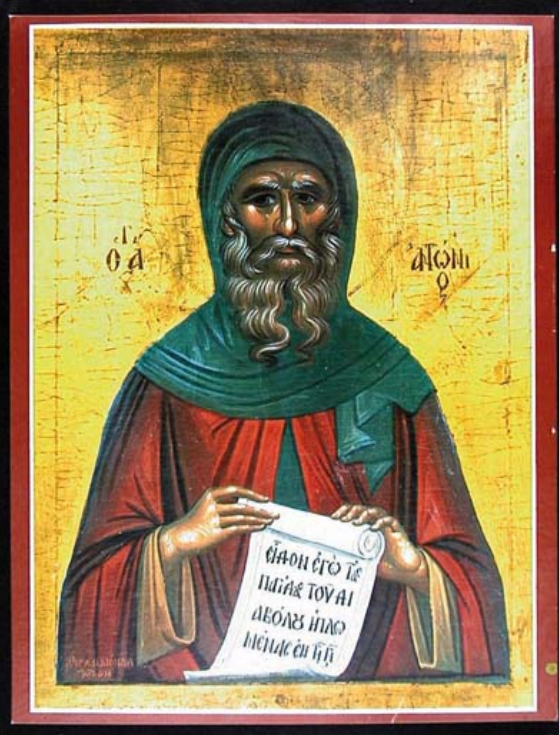
St. Simeon the  
Stylite



Macarius the Elder



Over time, the  
hermits started  
cloisters



Over time, the  
hermits started  
cloisters





Pachomius got  
things organized



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2. Rise of monasticism





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Next week: St. Benedict and his Rule







# Points for home





# Points for home

1. Balance (exm. “in” the world, not “of” it)





# Points for home

1. Balance (exm. “in” the world, not “of” it)
2. Pay attention to God





# Points for home

1. Balance (exm. “in” the world, not “of” it)
  2. Pay attention to God
  3. Find a way to sacrifice for others less fortunate
- 