

Title: Conversations

Subtitle: 666 AD Pope made more of a mess of things

Second Subtitle: Re: 666 AD Pope made more of a mess of things

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URL: https://www.wizanda.com/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=59

Quote:

Except that he was a native of Segni in the Campagna and that his father, nothing is known of this saintly pope's early life. Enthroned on July 30, he sent olive branches to the estranged East. He sent letters to the Emperor Constantine, patriarch of Constantinople. The Emperor replied graciously and sent the pope with a gold cover adorned with jewels. At this time Constantine seems to have persecuted. The patriarch also replied in a friendly manner. In answer to the return to Catholic unity and orthodoxy, Peter replied that he believed like Vitalian was inserted in the Constantinople diptychs. Vitalian has been accused of heresy towards heresy, but the charge is, to say the least, not proven. Actually, the Constantinople diptychs later by a more actively Monothelite patriarch.

In 662 Emperor Constantine decided to go west and establish himself in Italy. In Constantinople, he sought new prestige in the West. When he approached the sixth milestone by Pope Vitalian and the clergy. His stay in the Holy City was peacefully he visited Rome's famous shrines. His parting gesture, however, to remember his visit with pleasure. Constantine seized all the bronze he could, even the bronze tiles from the famous Pantheon, now St. Mary of the Marston. The Lombards, Constantine withdrew to Sicily. Here in the midst of a reign of terror, he was knifed in his bath. With the accession of his son Constantine IV, better times.

Pope Vitalian had trouble with Ravenna and Crete. The archbishop of Ravenna sought independence from Rome, and had successfully appealed to Emperor Constantine. This lasted until the pontificate of Leo II. From Crete came an appeal from John. John had been deposed by a synod under the direction of the metropolitan of Rome. He held a synod at Rome, decided that John had been unjustly condemned, and ordered the metropolitan to reinstate him in his see.

Vitalian had the satisfaction of learning that in the great synod of Whitby, the Roman date of Easter. To England he sent one of Canterbury's greatest and pious monk, Theodore of Tarsus.

Vitalian was considered a firm ruler of the Church, one who preserved discipline. He died on July 27, 672. Venerated as a saint, his feast is kept on that date.