

January 2, 2024

Daily Reflections



MEMORIAL OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN BISHOPS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

These 4th century bishops are remembered as gifted writers and preachers. The two were also close friends born in Cappadocia, what is now southwestern Turkey. Basil was drawn to the monastic life. Eventually he was made bishop of Caesarea, where he built a hospice to serve the sick of the area. He challenged the people in his diocese to care for the poor among them. His message to clergy who lived lives of luxury was that they were to live as simply as Jesus lived. Gregory also became a bishop. Although he was shy and never comfortable in public, he became a successful preacher and brilliant writer.

An Excerpt from the Gospel of John

*Beloved: Let what you heard from the beginning **remain in you**. If what you heard from the beginning **remains in you**, then you **will remain in***

the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made us: eternal life. I write you these things about those who would deceive you. As for you, the anointing that you received from him **remains in you**, so that you do not need anyone to teach you. But his anointing teaches you about everything and is true and not false; just as it taught you, **remain in him**. And now, children, **remain in him**, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not be put to shame by him at his coming.

. . . We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love and **whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him/her**.

1 JOHN 2:24-28; 4:16

Reflection

I recommend that the bold words above be held in reflection on this duo's feast. It's fascinating that the words "remain in" dominate the description of the disciple and companion of the LORD, especially celebrated in the feast of the bishop friends Basil and Gregory. "Remaining in" is more heart-focused than "walking alongside." There is the sense of "dwelling" or "making a home in," which invites feelings of belonging and security. To remain in God also means that God remains in us. So we offer God belonging and security within ourselves. We are gifts to each other by "remaining in."



Boy in white t-shirt inside a box
Photo by Anna Shvets

For Prayer

*Gracious God,
the helpful dictionary tells me that the word “remain” is from the Latin
remanere, which means “to stay.”
I want to stay with you, my generous Creator,
so that I may live in gratitude for all that is.
Even more, I invite you to stay with me
so that you may know how deeply I love you
in my living and my dying.
Amen.*

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

Support CSD



Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing
List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by theccsd@csjorange.org