

## **St. Hilary of Poitiers**

Friends in the Lord,

Today is the feast of St. Hilary of Poitiers, France.

He was born near the end of the 4th century,

and he was a married layman who had a daughter named Apia;

he was chosen to be a bishop.

Yes, there were still sometimes married priests then,

but those priests gave up all marital relations with their wives.

Hilary lived during the terrible period of the Arian heresy.

Arianism is the belief that Jesus Christ is not God, that he is not Divine.

This poison was spreading, especially in the east and in France.

Hilary defended the true Faith against the heretics.

and at one point he was exiled for four years by the Emperor for teaching the Truth.

Once, after returning from travels,

word was brought that an infant had died without being baptized, and the family was terribly distraught.

Hilary lay down in the dust for a long time and prayed for the child,

and as he slowly rose from his prayer,

the child rose from death, and he baptized the child.

Regarding Hilary's daughter Apia, he very much wanted

that she would be good and avoid the danger of Satan;

therefore he prayed for her, and in his prayer,

he told the Lord that he would rather his daughter die,

than ever commit a serious sin. A few days later she did

die!

Now the mother wished that she too could be holy at the time of her own death and go to heaven,

and so she asked him to pray for this.

He prayed in the same way, and she too died shortly thereafter.

St. Hilary had a very hot personality, and was known to speak strongly.

His Faith led him to go against the Emperor himself.  
By his death, he had rid all of France of this heresy of  
Arianism.

St. Hilary, who is considered a doctor of the Church,  
composed a mammoth, 12 volume work on the Holy  
Trinity,  
a vigorous defense of the Faith.  
The *Gloria*, in the Mass as we have today, was arranged  
by St. Hilary.

He worked many miracles, and at his death a mysterious  
light could be seen around his body.  
It was so bright that those present could not bear it.

His words are very appropriate for us to hear in these  
days:

he said this: "Now it is the time to speak.

The reign of the Antichrist has begun.

The shepherds must give the warning signals,  
because the hirelings have fled.

Brigands have entered the fold and the roaring lion is  
rampaging about.

Let us be ready for martyrdom!