



EVGENIUS • PRIMUS • ROMANVS •

Saint Eugene

St. Eugene was the pope from August 10, 654 until June 2, 657. He came from a Roman aristocratic family, conciliatory in nature and outstanding in holiness. The Roman clergy elected him pope after resisting for more than a year the pressure of the Emperor Constans I to replace Pope Martin I, who was under arrest. Pope Martin died in 655.

At that time there was a great controversy about whether Jesus had one or two wills. Correct doctrine insisted that since Christ is true God and true man, Jesus has a divine will and a human will. False teachers among the clergy were insisting that Christ had only one will and the Emperor Constans was taking their side. Pope Eugene at the insistence of the Roman clergy formally renounced a vague letter from the Patriarch of Constantinople about the controversy and Constans would have arrested Eugene for that were he not occupied with a military threat in the eastern empire.

St. Eugene was revered for his unaffected goodness and he left bequests for both the clergy and the people of Rome. Buried in St. Peter's, he was ignored by the ancient lists of martyrs, but was inserted in the Roman Martyrology by the famous church historian Cesare Baronius. The Feast of St. Eugene is on 2 June.

Prayer

All powerful and everliving God, you called St. Eugene to guide your people by his word and example. With him we pray to you: watch over the pastors of your Church with the people entrusted to their care, and lead them to salvation.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.