

# **“The Chosen Generation”**

**Becoming Who We Are in The Church**

# **Process Characteristics of Tradition**

- **Continuity-** The capacity to hold fast to the doctrines of Christ and the Apostles as manifested by the same truth being taught for 2000 years
- **Fidelity-** The imperative to remain in continuity by placing greater authority on the teachings of the past and the central truths at their core

# Continuity

- **Since the Holy Spirit, as Christ has promised us, guides and vivifies the Church, the central truth The Church teaches has remained the same over the course of history, and throughout the world**
- **To be *Orthodox* Christian means that we are holding true to the Apostles' doctrine**
- ***Catholicity* not Catholicism**

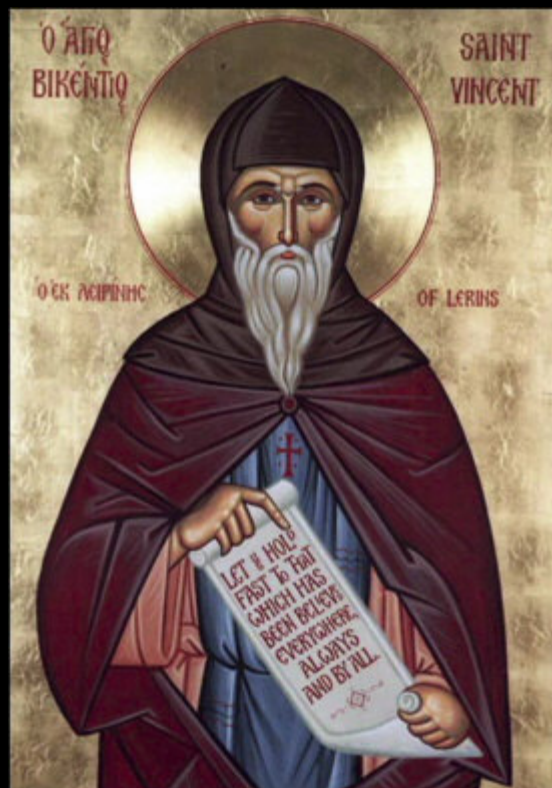
# Fidelity

- **What does a Church Council decide?**
  - **No new doctrines!**
- **The Church changes with the times and contexts while abiding in fidelity with the past**
- **Are you in the Early Church?**

# We Believe in the Faith...

**“practiced everywhere, always, by all”**

**– St. Vincent de Lerins, 434 A.D.**



## **But also...**

- **There is an over and abiding “canon of truth” which is being lived up to**
- **The majority of the Church can be in error, but that error is judged by the standard of the Apostolic doctrine**

# Example- The Eucharist



# St. Paul the Apostle

*First Epistle to the Corinthians 11:23-27*

**Ephesus 55 A.D.**



**23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:**

**24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.**

**25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.**

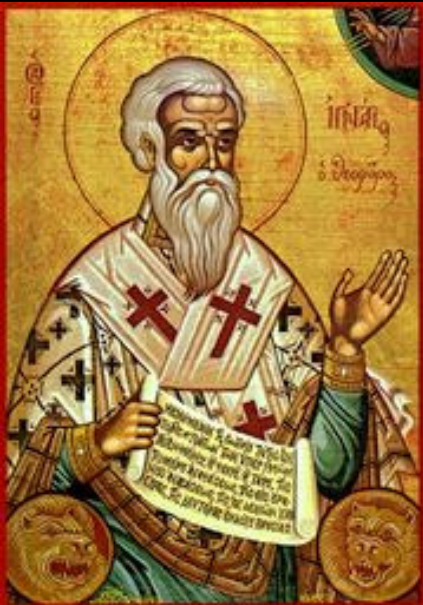
**26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.**

**27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

# Ignatius Nurono

*Epistle to the Philadelphians*

**Antioch 110 A.D.**



**"Take heed, then, to have but one Eucharist. For there is one flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one cup to [show forth] the unity of His blood; one altar; as there is one bishop, along with the presbytery and deacons, my fellow-servants: that so, whatsoever you do, you may do it according to [the will of] God."**

# St. Justin Martyr

*First Apology Ch. 67*

**Asia Minor, Rome ~150 A.D**

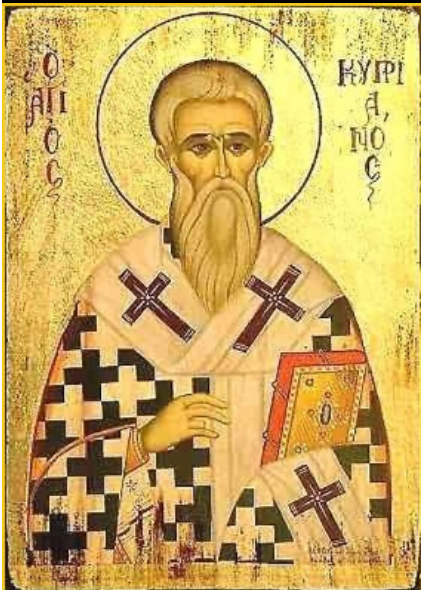


**“For not as common bread and common drink do we receive these; but in like manner as Jesus Christ our Saviour, having been made flesh by the Word of God, had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so likewise have we been taught that the food which is blessed by the prayer of His word, and from which our blood and flesh by transmutation are nourished, is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh.”**

# St. Cyprian

*On the Lord's Prayer, Ch. 18*

Carthage ~250 A.D.



**For Christ is the bread of life; and this bread does not belong to all men, but it is ours. And according as we say, "Our Father," because He is the Father of those who understand and believe; so also we call it "our bread," because Christ is the bread of those who are in union with His body.**

**And we ask that this bread should be given to us daily, that we who are in Christ, and daily receive the Eucharist for the food of salvation, may not, by the interposition of some heinous sin, by being prevented, as withheld and not communicating, from partaking of the heavenly bread, be separated from Christ's body, as He Himself predicts, and warns, "I am the bread of life which came down from heaven. If any man eat of my bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread which I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world."**

# Cyril of Jerusalem

*Catechetical Lecture 22:7*

**Jerusalem 347 A.D.**



**“Consider therefore the Bread and the Wine not as bare elements, for they are, according to the Lord's declaration, the Body and Blood of Christ; for even though sense suggests this to you, yet let faith establish you. Judge not the matter from the taste, but from faith be fully assured without misgiving, that the Body and Blood of Christ have been vouchsafed to you.”**

# **Our Inheritance**

**Having seen how Orthodox Christianity is indeed “orthodox,” and knowing that our forefathers and foremothers lived and died so that one bit of the Gospel Truth may not fade away, how can one not help feel “chosen” to receive this Truth and bear it proudly?**

# Exercise

**Take the given quotes from the Church Fathers, find their central meaning, then arrange them either geographically or temporally. The goal is to visually display that the Church is in continuity and fidelity across ages and borders.**