

## ECFs on Peter's Presence in Rome . . .

It is a commonly held belief among many Evangelical and Fundamentalist Protestant group that St. Peter was never in Rome because it is not explicitly mentioned in the Bible. Fortunately, we Catholics have the writings of the **Early Church Fathers (ECFs)** to prove many of our historical claims. To reject the Catholic position on the subject, one must reject or ignore the testimonies of the Early Church.

**Dionysius of Corinth** - You have also, by your very admonition, brought together the planting that was made by Peter and Paul at Rome and at Corinth; for both of them alike planted in our Corinth and taught us; and both alike, teaching similarly in Italy, suffered martyrdom at the same time (*Letter to Soter of Rome* [inter **A.D. 166 -174**] as recorded by Eusebius).

**Irenaeus** - Matthew also issued among the Hebrews a written Gospel in their own language, while Peter and Paul were evangelizing in Rome and laying the foundation of the Church. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, also handed down to us in writing what had been preached by Peter (*Against Heresies* 3:1:1 [**A.D. 189**]).

**Tertullian** - Let us see what milk the Corinthians drained from Paul; against what standard the Galatians were measured for correction; what the Philippian, Thessalonians, and Ephesians read; what even the nearby Romans sound forth, to whom both Peter and Paul bequeathed the Gospel and even sealed it with their blood (*Against Marcion* 4:5:1 [inter **A.D. 207-212**]).

**Eusebius** - The Apostle Peter, after he has established the Church in Antioch, is sent to Rome, where he remains bishop of that city, preaching the Gospel for twenty-five years (*The Chronicle, Ad An. Dom.* 42 [**A.D. 303**]).

**Peter of Alexandria** - Peter, the first chosen of the Apostles, having been apprehended often and thrown into prison and treated with ignominy, at last was crucified in Rome (*Canonical Letter*, canon 9 [**A.D. 306**]).

**Lactantius** - When Nero was already reigning Peter came to Rome, where, in virtue of the performance of certain miracles which he worked by that power of God which had been given to him, he converted many to righteousness and established a firm and steadfast temple to God. It was he (Nero) that first persecuted the servants of God. Peter, he fixed to a cross; and Paul, he slew (*The Deaths of the Persecutors* 2:5 [inter **A.D. 316-320**]).

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