



JOHN CASSIAN

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February 29 O/July 23 RC  
Monastic and Theologian

d. 435

- ✦ Born in Eastern Empire
- ✦ Toured Egyptian monasteries, served as deacon to John Chrysostom
- ✦ Went to Rome to plead for Chrysostom; met Leo
- ✦ Called to establish St. Victor's monastery in Marseilles
- ✦ Wrote *Institutes*, on monastic life, and *Conferences*, dialogues on spirituality and wisdom
- ✦ Mystical path of *purgatio*, *illuminatio*, *unitio*
- ✦ Dissented from Augustine's theology of grace

If I give all my goods to feed the poor... if I add to this sacrifice the fiery martyrdom of my flesh; if I hand my body over for the sake of Christ; if, nevertheless, I am impatient, prone to anger, jealous, proud; if I become enraged when wrongs are done to me; if I am on the lookout for my own interest; if my thoughts are evil; if I do not patiently and gladly endure all that happens to me; then the renunciation and the martyrdom of the outer man will be of no benefit to me as long as the inner spirit wallows in its old and sinful ways.

*Conferences*, 3.8

Whoever is guided solely by his own judgment and decision will never climb up to the summit of perfection and will not fail to be the victim of the devil's ruinous power to delude. . . . *Conferences*, 2.24