

# Church Fathers

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*Phyllicia Mazonheimer*

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Clement

## Clement

Pope Clement I was Bishop of Rome from 88 A.D. to 99 A.D. Like Paul, he sent a letter to the church at Corinth - continuing the discipleship begun by the apostles. He lived at the same time as many of the apostles, and some traditions hold that he was taught by the apostles themselves. The one surviving document we have written by Clement is actually the earliest church document aside from the gospels. In it, Clement counsels the church to put aside envy and jealousy and follow the example of godly biblical characters: "Therefore it is right for us to give heed to so great and so many examples and to submit the neck and occupying the place of obedience to take our side with them that are the leaders of our souls, that ceasing from this foolish dissension we may attain unto the goal which lieth before us in truthfulness, keeping aloof from every fault." 1 Clement 63:1

Clement was martyred by the Emperor Trajan, supposedly by being tied to an anchor and tossed into the sea. Because of this, Catholics consider him the patron saint of mariners. Clement is the first known Pope of the Catholic Church (Bishop of Rome), and lived at the same time as Ignatius and Polycarp.