September 3rd: Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

Gospel text (*Lk* 22:24-30): Then an argument broke out among them about which of them should be regarded as the greatest. He said to them, «(…) I am among you as the one who serves (…)».

St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church (540-604)

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
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Today we celebrate the pope who began using the title “Servant of God's servants”. He was born in Rome. Gregory entered early into an administrative career and he became Prefect of the city: he retained a deep sense of order and discipline. Shortly after, he decided to leave every civil assignment in order to withdraw to his home to begin the monastic life. Gregory remained a simple monk in his heart: his desire was to live in permanent contact with the Word of God, but for love of God he knew how to make himself the servant of all in a time full of tribulation and suffering.

Elected as Bishop of Rome, he faced the invasion of the Longobards. St Gregory saw this people with the eyes of a good pastor; he was concerned with the conversion of the young people and the new civil structure of Europe. Along with his purely spiritual and pastoral action, Pope Gregory also became an active protagonist in multifaceted social activities: not by chance was the title “consul Dei” quickly attributed to him.

—In his preaching it was noted that the soul of St. Gregory the Great fed on the Bible, which he read with humility: «The preacher must dip his pen into the blood of his heart; then he can also reach the ear of his neighbor».