December 7th: Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Gospel text (*Jn* 10,11-16): «I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep (...)».

Saint Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church

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(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we admire the figure of St. Ambrose (c.340-397) whose election as bishop of Milan was quite peculiar. On the death of the arian bishop Auxentius, the election of the new bishop of Milan was very complicated, because partisanships and a strong division made fear the worst; the police of the city was called because of this, with Ambrose at the front, to guarantee order. At that time Ambrose was preparing to receive baptism ...

In a moment of debate and controversy, a voice was heard: "Ambrose, bishop!" The applause was unanimous and, before the crowd that acclaimed him, he had no choice but to accept the election. In a few days he received baptism and sacred orders, and thus became the most distinguished bishop of Milan.

-San Ambrose practice the study of theology, exposed the Christian doctrine in magisterial sermons and fostered the liturgy, for all of which he earned the title of Doctor of the Church. He was an excellent pastor in the image of the "Good Shepherd"!