

SAINTS ALIVE! ISIDORE OF SEVILLE



St. Isidore of Seville was born to a noble Spanish family in the mid-6th century. He lived for 80 years, dying on April 4.

He wrote an encyclopedia that was referenced for 1,000 years, and produced works on astronomy, geography, world history, biographies, law, theology, and histories of various races and peoples.

Because of the universality of his knowledge, St. Isidore of Seville is patron of computers and the Internet.

“Social media can be powerful tools for strengthening community ... Social media can support communities in a myriad of ways: connecting people with similar interests, sharing information about in-person events, providing ways for people to engage in dialogue, etc.” *Social Media Guideline, U.S. Catholic Bishops*

Isidore loved to learn and he understood the value of sharing his knowledge; he is known as the “schoolmaster of the Middle Ages.” As archbishop, he called for a seminary in every diocese and established a comprehensive educational system. During the Dark Ages, Spain remained a center of learning and culture thanks to his vision.

We are not in the Dark Ages today, not with the pervasive availability of information, but perhaps we live in a time where truth is obscured by opinion and knowledge is tainted by rumor and unsubstantiated fact.

“Be aware of the potential for receiving partial information or biased views. No communication medium can supply all details about anything. The Internet, in particular, offers a vast amount of unevaluated information. You and your children need to use a variety of media sources to learn about the world in which we live. When using media, be ready to ask what aspects of life are being neglected, what issues are being ignored, and whether bias or manipulation is involved.” *Family Guide For Using Media, U.S. Catholic Bishops*

Questioning half-truths and evaluating the veracity of the information we receive in this digital age gives us an opportunity to learn what is truth and form our consciences on a solid foundation.

The U.S. Bishops’ articulated this advice in *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, their teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics:

“Catholics have a serious and lifelong obligation to form their consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.” *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2007*

Knowledge, not hunches; understanding, not preconceived ideas.

St. Isidore of Seville, whose learning made Spain a beacon of light during the Dark Ages, pray for us!



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