



PO Box 271227 + Flower Mound, TX + 75027 + 1-800-803-0118 + www.dritaly.com

The Church Rises like the Dawn

***St. Gregory the Great
Early Church Father & Doctor of the Church***



This excerpt from St. Gregory the Great's Moral Reflections on Job (Moralia in Job, Lib. 3, 15-16: pl 75, 606-608) treats of the imagery of dawn, light and darkness. This reading is used in the Roman Office of Readings for Thursday of the 9th week in ordinary time with the accompanying biblical reading taken from Job.

Since the dawn goes from darkness into light, it is right that the Church of the elect should be called “dawn” or “first light.” As it is led from the night of disbelief into the light of faith, it is opened up to the splendour of heavenly brightness just as the dawn bursts into day after darkness. How right are the words of the Song of Songs: *Who is she who is coming up like the dawn?* The holy Church seeks the rewards of heavenly life and is rightly called the dawn because it deserts the shadows of sin and sparkles in the light of righteousness.

There is something subtler to learn from this, on considering the nature of the dawn. Dawn, or first light, proclaims that the night is over but does not yet manifest the full brightness of the day. It dispels night, it gives a beginning to the day, but still it is a mixture of light and darkness. All of us who follow the truth in this life, are we not exactly like the dawn? Some of the things we do are truly works of the light, but others are not entirely free of the remnants of darkness. *No man is virtuous before you*, says the psalmist, and again Scripture says *we have all done wrong in many ways*.

This is why Paul does not say “the night has passed and day has come,” but *night has passed and day is approaching*, showing beyond doubt that he is still in the dawn, after the end of darkness but still before rising of the sun.

The Church of the elect will be fully day only when the darkness of sin is no longer mixed in with it. It will be fully day only when it shines with the perfect warmth of a light that comes from within. God shows that we are still going through this dawn when he says to Job, *Have you ever sent the dawn to its post?*

PO Box 271227 + Flower Mound, TX + 75027 + 1-800-803-0118 + www.dritaly.com

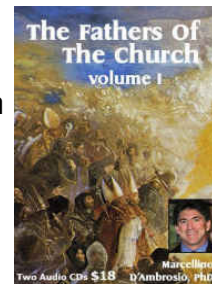
Something that is being sent somewhere is being sent from one place or state to another. What is the destined place of the dawn if not the perfect brightness of the eternal vision? And when it has reached its place, will it still have any of the darkness of the night that has passed? The dawn was intent on reaching its destined place when the psalmist said *My soul thirsts for the living God; when shall I appear before the face of God?* The dawn was hurrying to the place it knew to be its destiny when Paul said that he wanted to die and to be with Christ, and when he said *For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

For more Catholic resources to feed your faith, [visit www.dritaly.com](http://www.dritaly.com)

The Early Church Fathers - VOL I

A society characterized by the violence, loss of respect for life, exotic religious cults, homosexuality, sexual promiscuity, and even pedophilia. No, we're not talking about modern times -

The Early Church Fathers succeeded in bringing a Pagan society to Christ. If we pay attention to what they taught, we will succeed in doing the same for our own de-Christianized society!



Album 1: The Apostolic Fathers and Irenaeus

Album 2: The Apologists, Ambrose, and Augustine



Phytovite (free shipping)

Phytovite is a state-of-the art antioxidant formulation that includes a comprehensive blend of vitamins, chelated minerals, and phytonutrients which provides the nutritional support so needed for optimal health and longevity.

Great Adventure Bible Time Line Catholic Scripture Study --24 talks on DVD

The Bible Timeline provides a clear understanding of the underlying Scriptural narrative, which is essential to all Bible reading and study. The 24-part Bible Timeline Bible Study dives deep into the Biblical story. A combination of individual reading and study, group discussion, and lecture commentary guides participants as they read through the 14 narrative books of The Bible Timeline and discover the meaning of each in light of the whole.

