



logo©2004 by R Fulwiler

Seasoning the Seasons™

The Institute for Christian Formation, Inc.

Text ©2008 by Sandra A. Chakeres. All rights reserved.

Feast of Saint Jerome

Saint Jerome: September 30

On September 30th on the Catholic Church Calendar we celebrate the feast of Saint Jerome. Jerome lived at the end of the fourth century and the beginning of the fifth century. He was born in Dalmatia, worked in Rome for a while, and eventually moved to Bethlehem where he lived the remainder of his life, dying on September 30th in the year 420. Jerome was a priest, and is also a Doctor of the Church, meaning he was an important Christian teacher.



St. Jerome (1518)

Iconographer: Angelos Bizamanos
Franciscan Monastery, Dubrovnik

We know that the Bible is very important - it is the Word of God. Saint Jerome also knew how important the Bible was, and he wanted to make sure that everyone - not just the wealthy and the scholars - could have the opportunity to hear and study the Bible in their own language. At the time Jerome lived, most of the people spoke Latin. But the Bible was written in Hebrew and in Greek. So Jerome began the task of translating books of the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin. The Latin translation of the Bible was called the "Vulgate", which means it was written in the common language of the people. The Vulgate was the translation of the Bible which was used for centuries by all Christians!

St. Jerome even began a Scripture study group for women, which was unheard of in his day and age. But he knew the power that the Bible had to change people's lives. One of his sayings was, *"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."*

There are many fascinating tales of Saint Jerome, including one of his encounter

and friendship with a lion. There are several charming children's books which recount this tale. Check your public library regarding the availability of one of these books.

