

Returning from his successful embassy, Leo, in triumph re-entered Rome, and was saluted by the enthusiastic people with the title of the Great.

Along with all these important public cares and anxieties, St. Leo found time as well, to attend to some of the interior regulations of the Church. He set about directing the time of the Paschal celebration. By his orders, Victorius of Aquitaine undertook to draw up a Paschal Canon, more exact, extensive and scientific than any yet adopted. The cycle of Victorius published in 457, became the standard of the Latin Church and served as a basis for all future undertakings of a like nature.

The office of papal nuncio is said to have been originated by St. Leo. Julian of Cos was sent by him, to reside at the Court of Constantinople in that capacity. The credentials of Julian are the first trace we find in Church history of the existence of such an office.

A custom had begun to prevail in some churches, about this time, of reading aloud the sins of those who were subjected to canonical penance. St. Leo thought proper to abolish it and declared private confession to an approved priest sufficient to the worthy reception of the sacrament of Penance.

The office of deaconesses, instituted by the early disciples was also abolished during the pontificate of St. Leo, probably on account of abuses.

The condition of Rome, already precarious enough, was at this time rendered still more so, by the ingratitude of the Emperor Valentinian III, who with his own hand, slew the brave general Altius on a charge of pretended conspiracy. No one now was left worthy to command the army.

Valentinian himself perished miserably a few days later at the hands of assassins hired by senator Maximus, who immediately assumed the purple, and forced the wretched Empress Eudoxia, to receive his hand. The unfortunate woman thinking to avenge her husband's death by sacrificing the interests of her country, invited Genseric, king of the Vandals to take possession of Rome. The barbarian readily acceded to her request, and immediately set out on the journey. The whole of Italy was convulsed with