

the following age, is, in several pages of his writings, a witness to this belief and practice of the Church in his day. As far back as the fourth century, St. Cyril testifies that it was the custom to pray for those who had departed this life, believing it to be a great assistance to those souls for whom prayers are offered while the holy and tremendous sacrifice is going on." St. Chrysostom, who flourished within three hundred years of the age of the apostles, writes as follows: "It was not without good reason *ordained by the apostles* that mention should be made of the dead in the tremendous mysteries, because they knew well that these would receive great benefit from it."

All the other great Christian writers and teachers of antiquity, down to St. Ambrose, St. Jerome and St. Augustine, prove that the doctrine and practice of the Church in this important regard were the same then as now, and, therefore, that they are of apostolic authority, and warrant, according to the maxim of St. Augustine, "that which the universal Church holds, which has been always retained, and not instituted by councils, is justly believed to have been not otherwise transmitted than by apostolic authority." (de Bapt. contra. don.)

St. Augustine, who flourished in the fifth century, is most explicit on this subject. In one of his sermons (s-rm. clxxii.) he says: "Funeral pomp and a gorgeous mausoleum, without being of the least service to the dead, may, indeed, offer some kind of consolation to the living. But that which cannot be doubted is that the prayers of the Church, the holy sacrifice, alms, bring them relief, and obtain for them a more merciful treatment than they deserved." The whole Church, *instructed by the traditions of the Fathers*, takes care that at the part of the sacrifice in which the dead are mentioned, a prayer and an oblation are made for all those who have departed this life in the communion of the body of Jesus Christ."

A most touching incident is related by this same great saint, which gives us a glimpse into the life and practice of the Church in his day. When his saintly mother Monica was