Hydraulics • Meteorology • Atomic Theory • Cytology • Seismology • Biogenesis • Paleontology • Zoology • Electricity • Botany • Photography • Thermodynamics • Accounting • Optics • Egyptology • Ethnography • Cytology • Seismology • Biogenesis • Paleontology • Zoology • Electricity • Oceanography • Geography • Medicine • Archeology • Neurophysiology • Economics • Hydraulics • Meteorology • Atomic Theory • Husbandry • Pedagogy • Anthropology • Wood/Kacy Designs 2011

The Ancient of Days by William Blake c. 1794

Divine Invention

Scientific Contributions to Civilization of Clergy and Religious

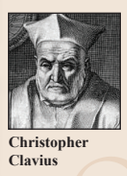
Since the dawn of time, the Holy Man or Priest was regarded as the wisest and most valuable member of society. He healed the sick, educated the young, advocated for the weak, charted the calendar, counseled the ruler, and interceded with the gods. But the priest was also a leading figure in the formulation of laws, in the experimentation of agriculture, husbandry, water transport and the rotation of crops; in the development of mathematics, in the composition and advancement of music, and in the construction of bridges, roads, canals, private homes, palaces and temples. The advent of Christianity further channeled the priest's influence in countless ways with the help of even more consecrated advocates; monks and nuns, religious brothers and sisters. Virtually no human enterprise was left untouched. Thus the Catholic Church laid a firm foundation of selfless and lasting achievement.

Agostino Gemelli — Angelo Secchi

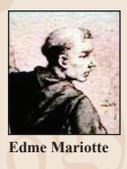
Inventor of the Carolingian Miniscule *(lower case lettering and spacing)* ..... Alcuin of York, English Benedictine, +804
Inventors of the Eastern European Alphabet *(Cyrillic alphabet)* ..... Cyril and Methodius, Greek monks, +828 / +820
Father of the Mechanical Clock ..... Pope Sylvester II, French Benedictine, +1003
Father of Music Notation ..... Guido of Arezzo, Italian Benedictine, +1033
Conceived concept of a "Punishment fitting the Crime" ..... Anselm of Canterbury, French-English Benedictine, +1109
Father of Canon Law *(his use of logic and dialectics was also foundational for civil law)* ..... Gratian, Italian Benedictine, +1160
Father of Scientific Experimentation ..... Robert Grosseteste, English Bishop of Lincoln, +1253
Among the earliest diagnoses of Depression and other Mental Illnesses ..... Bartholomeus Anglicus, English Franciscan, +1272
Father of Modern Science ..... Roger Bacon, English Franciscan, +1292
First correct geometrical analysis of the Rainbow ..... Theodoric of Freiberg, German Dominican, +1310
Greatest Traveler of Middle Ages *(primary Far East resource)* ..... Odoric of Pordenone, Italian Franciscan, +1331
Father of Trigonometry / Inventor of the Astronomical Clock ..... Richard of Wallingford, English Benedictine, +1336
Greatly contributed to the Mean Speed Theorem *(determining velocity of objects in relation to each other)* ..... Thomas Bradwardine, English Diocesan, +1349
Father of Modern Monetary Theory ..... Jean Buridan, French Diocesan, +1358
Father of Monetary Economics ..... Nicholas Oresme, French Diocesan, +1382
First to conjecture that the earth revolves around the sun ..... Nicolas de Cusa, German Diocesan, +1464
Father of Modern Banking ..... Barnabas of Terni, Italian Observant Franciscan, +1477
Father of Modern Accounting ..... Luca Pacioli, Italian Conventual Franciscan, +1517
Cartographer, first recorded usage of the word "America" ..... Martin Waldseemüller, German Diocesan, +1520
Father of Modern Astronomy ..... Nicholas Copernicus, Polish Canon of Frombork Cathedral, +1543
Father of International Law ..... Francisco de Vitoria, Spanish Dominican, +1546
Father of the Modern Calendar *(Gregorian)* ..... Pope Gregory XIII, Italian Diocesan, +1585, with Christopher Clavius, German Jesuit, +1612
Noted for observations re magnetic variation of the compass / First to determine longitude at sea ..... Christopher Borrus, Italian Jesuit, then Cistercian, +1632
Inventor of the Equatorial Mount *(compensating for earth's rotation to maintain sighting on celestial objects)* ..... Christopher Grienberger, Austrian Jesuit, +1636
Pioneers in Hydromechanics *(calculations regarding fluids in motion)* ..... Benedetto Castelli, Italian Benedictine, +1643
Fundamental Reformer of Surgery/Treatment of Wounds ..... Cesare Magati, Italian Capuchin Franciscan, +1647
First to discover that the planet Mercury had orbital phases ..... Giovanni Battista Zupi, Italian Jesuit, +1650
First to determine center of gravity of the sector of a circle *(relating to flying objects)* ..... Jean-Charles de la Faille, Dutch Jesuit, +1652
Wrote extensively on Comets ..... Johann Baptist Cysat, Swiss Jesuit, +1657
Laid groundwork for the discovery of Calculus *(study of change, i.e. limits, derivatives, infinite series, etc.)* ..... André Tacquet, Belgian Jesuit, +1660
Inventor of the Terrestrial Telescope *(i.e., spyglass)* ..... Antonius Schyrlaus (Schyrl), Austrian Capuchin Franciscan, +1660
Discovered Diffraction of Light *(phenomena occurring when a wave encounters an obstacle)* ..... Francesco Maria Grimaldi, Italian Jesuit, +1663
First to study the properties of the Helix *(three-dimensional space curve, esp. re biology and genetics)* ..... Antoine de Laloubère, French Jesuit, +1664
Inventor of the Reflecting Telescope *(use of curved mirrors allowing for study of large diameter objects)* ..... Nicholas Zucchi, Italian Jesuit, +1670
First to measure the rate of Acceleration of a Freely Falling Body ..... Giambattista Riccioli, Italian Jesuit, +1671
Father of Egyptology / Father of Motion Pictures / Discovered Microbes ..... Athanasius Kircher, German Jesuit, +1680
Pioneer of Neurophysiology *(study of the nervous system, esp. re brain function)* ..... Edme Mariotte, French Benedictine, +1684
Father of Geology ..... Blessed Niels Steno, Danish Jesuit, +1686
The Father of Aeronautics / Conceived idea for Braille ..... Francesco Lana de Terzi, Italian Jesuit, +1687
Designed the first ever Self-Propelled Vehicle ..... Ferdinand Verbiest, Belgium Jesuit, +1688
Inventor of the Binocular Telescope *(using both eyes simultaneously, i.e. binoculars)* ..... Cherubin d'Orleans, French Capuchin Franciscan, +1697
Theorist of the Camera Obscura *(precursor to photography)* ..... Johann Zahn, German Norbertine, +1707
Inventor of the Photometer *(instrument determining temperature, distance, age of celestial bodies)* ..... Francois-Marie de Paris, French Capuchin Franciscan, +1714
Inventor of Champagne ..... Perignon of Hautvilliers-on-the-Marne, French Benedictine, +1715
Founder of the First Geographic Society ..... Vincenzo Coronelli, Italian Conventual Franciscan, +1718
Father of Modern Pedagogy ..... John Baptist de la Salle, Canon of Reims, France, +1719
Inventor of the first Electric Motor ..... Andrew Gordon, Scottish Benedictine, +1751
Creator of the Lightening Rod *(independent of Benjamin Franklin)* ..... Prokop Divis, Czech Norbertine, +1765
Inventor of the Electroscope *(instrument measuring an electrical charge)* ..... Jean-Antoine Nollet, French Diocesan, +1770
Noted for pioneering the study of Binary Stars *(an orbiting star system)* ..... Christian Mayer, Czech Jesuit, +1783
Father of Modern Atomic Theory ..... Ruer Josip Boškovi, Croatian Jesuit, +1787
Probably the first Ecologist *(studying relation of organisms to each other and their surroundings)* ..... Francois Louis Receveur, French Conventual Franciscan, +1788
Pioneer of Sign Language for the Deaf ..... Charles Michel de L'Epee, French Diocesan, +1789
First astronomer to compute the orbit of Uranus ..... Placidus Fixlmillner, Austrian Benedictine, +1791
First to perform In Vitro Fertilization and Artificial Insemination / Discovered Echolocation *(biological sonar)* ..... Lazzaro Spallanzani, Italian Diocesan, +1799
Father of Crystallography *(determining the arrangement of atoms in solids)* ..... René Just Haüy, French Diocesan, +1822
Extensive work in cataloguing stars ..... Giuseppe Piazzi, Italian Theatine, +1826
Inventor of the Zamboni Pile *(an early dry battery)* ..... Giuseppe Zamboni, Italian Diocesan, +1846
Inventor of the Horizontal Pendulum *(i.e. a compass, seismograph, etc.)* ..... Lorenz Hengler, German Diocesan, +1858
Inventor of the Induction Coil *(electrical transformer, i.e. engine ignitions, etc.)* ..... Nicholas Callan, Irish Diocesan, +1864
Conceived idea for laying a Transatlantic Cable ..... John Mullock, Irish-Canadian Observant Franciscan, +1869
Pioneering inventors of the Internal Combustion Engine ..... Eugenio Barsanti, Italian Piarist, +1864 and Giovanni Antonelli, Italian Diocesan, +1872
Father of Astrophysics and Pioneer of Spectroscopic Astronomy *(identifying properties of celestial bodies w/ spectrum)* ..... Angelo Secchi, Italian Jesuit, +1878
Father of Handwriting Analysis ..... Jean Hippolyte Michon, French Diocesan, +1881
Father of Genetics ..... Gregor Mendel, Austrian Augustinian, +1884
First to conceive of Seismic Radiant *(measure of advance electrical disturbance allowing prediction of earthquakes)* ..... Alessandro Serpieri, Italian Scolopian, +1885
Inventor of the Modern Refrigerator ..... Marcel Audiffren, French Cistercian, + after 1895
Father of the Dynamo *(electric generator)* **and Electric Motor** ..... Stephen Ányos Jedlik, Slovakian Benedictine, +1895
One of the founders of the Naturopathic Medicine Movement *(holistic medical system focusing on natural remedies)* ..... Sebastian Kneippn, German Diocesan, +1897
Founder of the science of Cytology *(study of cells)* ..... Jean Baptiste Carnoy, Belgian Diocesan, +1899
One of the earliest inventors the Fountain Pen ..... Candide of Magland, French Capuchin Franciscan, + after 1903
Inventor of the Bulletproof Vest ..... Casimir Zeglen, Ukrainian-American Resurrectionist, + after 1905
Discovered Parthenogenesis *(asexual reproduction)* **/ Father of Modern Apiculture** *(bee keeping)* ..... Johann Dzierzon, Polish Diocesan, +1906
Inventor of the Mercalli Scale *(instrument measuring intensity of earthquakes. Later improved by C. Richter)* ..... Giuseppe Mercalli, Italian Diocesan, +1914
Discovered Six Galaxies ..... George Mary Searle, American Paulist, +1918
Noted for spectroscopics studies of Solar Prominences and Sun Spots ..... Gyula Fényi, Hungarian Jesuit, +1927
First public demonstration of a Radio Broadcast *(June 3, 1900. Preceding Marconi)* ..... Roberto Landell de Moura, Brazilian Diocesan, +1928
Greatly contributed to Wireless Telegraphy *(helping to develop Mobile Communications)* ..... Jozef Murgaš, Slovakian-American Diocesan, +1929
Noted for advancing studies of Cuneiform and Babylonian Astronomy ..... Franz Xaver Kugler, German Jesuit, +1929
Inventor of the Track Circuit/Block System *(device detecting obstructions on railroad tracks)* ..... Angelo Fiorini, Italian Capuchin Franciscan, +1929
Inventor of the Barocyclonometer *(a ship's device that determines existence and distance of storms at sea)* ..... José María Algué, Spanish Diocesan, +1930
Creator of the Seismic Network *(partnership of towns, cities, countries in earthquake monitoring)* ..... Frederick Louis Odenbach, American Jesuit, +1933
Developed "Cullen Numbers" *(a natural number sequence in mathematical theory)* ..... James Cullen, Irish Jesuit, +1933
Co-Founder of Alcoholics Anonymous *(with Bob Smith and Bill Wilson)* ..... Ignatia Gavin, American Sister of Charity of St. Augustine, +1966
Developed concept of an Expanding Universe *("Big Bang Theory")* **and Black Holes** ..... Georges Lemaître, Belgian Diocesan, +1966
Extensive research in Asteroid Orbit Calculations ..... Otto Kippes, German Diocesan, +1994
Pioneered infrared spectrograph *(supporting double helix configuration of DNA)* ..... Miriam Stimson, American Dominican, +2002

Anselm of Canterbury — Anyos Jedlik

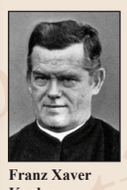
Athanasius Kircher — Casimir Zeglen



Christopher Clavius — Cyril & Methodius

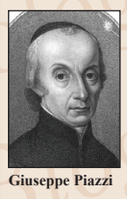


Edme Mariotte — Francesco Maria Grimaldi

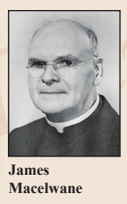
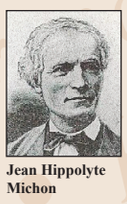


Franz Xaver Kugler — Frederick Odenbach

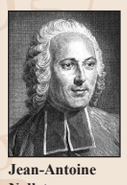
Georges Lemaître — Giuseppe Mercalli



Giuseppe Piazzi — James Cullen

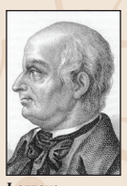



James Macelwane — Jean Hippolyte Michon

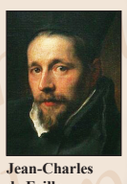


Jean-Antoine Nollet — Johann Cysatus

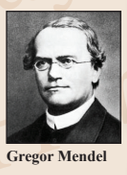
Johann Dzierzon — Jozef Murgas



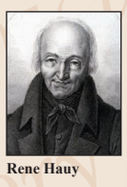
Julius Nieuwland — Lazzaro Spallanzani



Charles de L'Epee — Jean-Charles de Faille

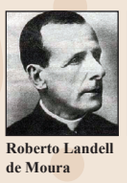
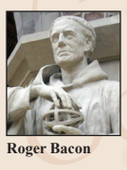


Eugenio Barsanti — Gregor Mendel

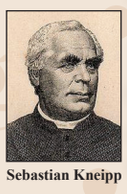


Prokop Diviš — Rene Hauy

Richard of Wallingford — Jean Baptiste Carnoy

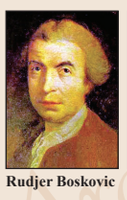



Roberto Landell de Moura — Roger Bacon



John Mullock — Sebastian Kneipp

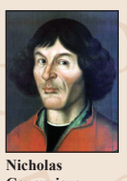
Sr Miriam Stimson — Sr Hilary Ross



Rudjer Boskovic — Luca Pacioli

Sr Ignatia Gavin — Teilhard de Chardin

Niels Stensen — Vincenzo Coronelli

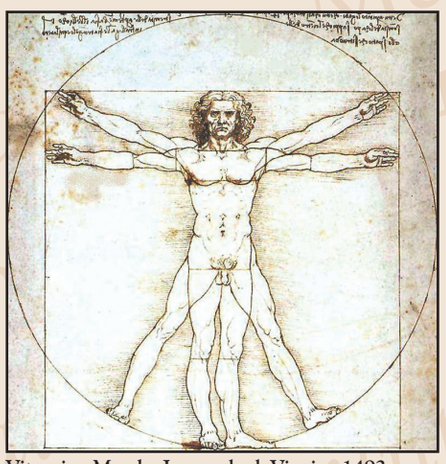


Nicholas Copernicus — Nicholas of Cusa

Nicholas Oresme — George M Searle

Saturn (from internet) c. 2010

Friar Luca Pacioli by Jacopo de' Barbari c. 1495



Vitruvian Man by Leonardo daVinci c. 1492

Telegraphy • Sociology • Psychology • History • Political Science • Engineering • Agriculture • Architecture • Social Justice • Hydraulics • Meteorology • Atomic Theory • Jurisprudence • Mathematics • Music Theory • Genetics • Biology • Graphology • Astronomy • Linguistics •

NB: Because scientific research in the 20th and 21st centuries has become more collective in nature, fewer individuals stand out in any particular field.