

45. Bishop Saints in Stained Glass at the Burrell

Having looked at the two Bishop Saints in the Boppard windows, it is interesting to compare them with other, similar panels in the Burrell. Bishop Saints are senior church officials (usually bishops) who have performed or are associated with some remarkable event of Christian religious significance. The process of raising someone's status to that of a saint in the Catholic Church is called canonization, and it has become more structured over the years. Originally relying more on public opinion than anything else, the basic rules now-a-days are:

- The candidate should be dead (more than five years in most cases)
- A local Bishop undertakes a detailed investigation and gathers evidence relating to the candidate's life.
- The information, now sent to the Vatican, is considered by the "Congregation for Cause of Saints", a panel of senior church officials.
- If the panel agrees, the Pope will declare the candidate "venerable", which means that they are a role model for the Catholic Church.
- Next, the candidate must be "beatified". This means that either they are associated with a miracle, or they were martyred. The miracle does not have to have been performed by the candidate, as it could be for example, someone who has recovered from a terminal illness as a result of praying to their spirit.
- To be canonized, there must be proof of a second miracle, at which point the candidate becomes a saint.

Bishop or Priest saints are often venerated at a local level having undertaken their religious services nearby. The Boppard saint were St. Cunibert, patron saint of a local important family and Archbishop of Cologne, and St. Severinus, also Archbishop of Cologne and patron saint of Boppard.

Five other Bishop (or priest) saints in stained glass at the Burrell are shown below.

On the right are a pair of panels from Germany, made around 1230 – 1260. There is a Bishop-Saint on the left, with his mitre and crosier, and a Priest or Deacon Saint on the right.



The Bishop saint in the panel on the right is thought to be St. Romanus (or Romanus of Rouen). He is shown standing under a canopy holding a pastoral staff piercing the open mouth of a red dragon. St. Romanus was the Bishop of Rouen and died around 640, and is associated with several miracles. The miracle involving a dragon has a number of variations. The legend says that Romanus went off to hunt this beast that devoured and destroyed the local people with the only other person prepared to help, a condemned prisoner. When they found the dragon, Romanus subdued it with a crucifix, lead it back to the town, where it was burned before the entrance to the cathedral.

This miracle was the origin of the bishop's privilege, in which the bishop is allowed to pardon one condemned prisoner a year at a procession involving Romanus' relics.

Another stained glass panel, shown below, and on display in the Burrell was made in the early 16th century in the Rhineland. It shows three lady donors dresses in red robes and kneeling in church. Mother is on the left and her married daughter is on the right. They both hold rosaries and



are coiled in white to cover their heads. The unmarried daughter (as her head is not covered) is in the middle and has a small garland, or chaplet, of flowers in her hair. She doesn't seem to be holding a rosary, but the word chaplet also refers to a Roman Catholic prayer that uses prayer beads.

On the left is their patron saint, a Bishop Saint with his mitre and crozier. His right hand is raised in benediction and he wears a gold embroidered cope, a blue dalmatic and a white alb.