

# SAN ISIDORO DE SEVILLA HACE RELUCIR LA VERDAD

By Pablo Ricardo Quintana

While I admire Santiago Caballero and I carry his medal on me at all times, I suggest that St. Isidore of Seville, not to be confused with San Isidro Labrador, would make a more appropriate patron for the NM HCPL. First, we already have Santiago as patron of the Hispanos of New Mexico and available for our prayers and rescue. Yet, St. Isidore too is an Apostle and protector of the Spanish. For it was he, along with his brother, San Leandro, who converted the Visigoths of Spain from the Arian heresy to Catholicism. In Spain, he is considered one of the greatest ornaments of the Spanish church.

San Isidoro was born in Cartagena in the sixth century in a very religious family. Not only his brother, San Leandro, but his sister Santa Florentina were canonized. He succeeded his brother as bishop of Seville and, through his offices, he restored and settled the liturgy of the Church, primarily at the Council of Seville in 619 and the Council of Toledo in 633, of which he was the oracle and the soul, according to San Ildefonso. When he wrote his Etymologies, which encompassed all the knowledge, sacred and profane, of his day, he was credited with writing the first encyclopedia (another first for the Spanish).

For this reason, he is the patron of the computer and the Internet. But, he was not only knowledgeable, he was also holy and good. His house was always crowded with the poor because of his known generosity. On his death, he forgave all his debts and distributed all his remaining goods to the poor. Then he lay down in sack and ashes and died on April 4, 636 A.D. His relics, recovered from the Moors of Sevilla by King Ferdinand, are interred in the Basilica de San Isidoro in León, Spain. St. Isidore is patron of Spanish historians, essayists, copyists, printers and students. He makes the truth shine forth. He is invoked against auto accidents, vices of all kinds, warts and varicose veins. He is patron of Seville, Spain.

So, the NM HCPL is concerned with Spanish history in New Mexico and in the U.S. So is San Isidoro. We use letters to the editor and the essay to voice our concerns, and we are dedicated to the Internet as our means of communication. So is St. Isidore. Our aim is to educate Hispanic students and to reduce dropouts among them. So it is with San Isidorito. His feast day is April 4, the beginning of Hispanic New Mexico History Month. Who better, then, than he to launch it, make the truth of it shine forth... and to be our Patron Saint. He was almost made to order for us. Sandoro, bendicenos y guía nuestros miembros que voten por tí para ser nuestro patrón. Así sea.