

# “A Great Cloud of Witnesses”

A Historical Series of the Murals on the Walls of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church

## Saint Ansgar

*9th Century Scandinavia*



Born in 801 AD in France, St. Ansgar was raised in a Benedictine abbey after his mother died. He became a Benedictine monk, and was sent to preach the Gospel in Denmark with the newly-Baptized king. He labored in this primarily un-Christian country until the king was expelled and St. Ansgar with him.

He was then sent to Sweden, and although the delegation was attacked on its way and was thought to have abandoned its mission, the determined St. Ansgar succeeded in entering the country.

The king of Sweden received him favorably and allowed him to preach the Gospel. Many converted and he established a church there.

Returning to Germany, St. Ansgar was made a bishop and the pope put him in charge of the missions in the northern lands. However, the king of the Danes saw Christianity as the religion of his political rival, and he invaded St. Ansgar's diocese, leaving the entire land in ruins.

St. Ansgar labored on, and made frequent trips back to Denmark and Sweden to win the favor of the royalty and to continue the work of the Gospel in these lands. While his original missions in Denmark and Sweden were later completely destroyed, St. Ansgar is considered the “Apostle of the North.” He died in the year 865, regretting that he had never been a martyr. **His Feast day is February 3.**

Each month, this series will feature the murals painted on the walls of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian Church along with history and commentary. You can also find this series on our website at [www.hcscchurch.org](http://www.hcscchurch.org).  
*Historical commentary researched and prepared by Anthony Lickteig (Seminarian).*