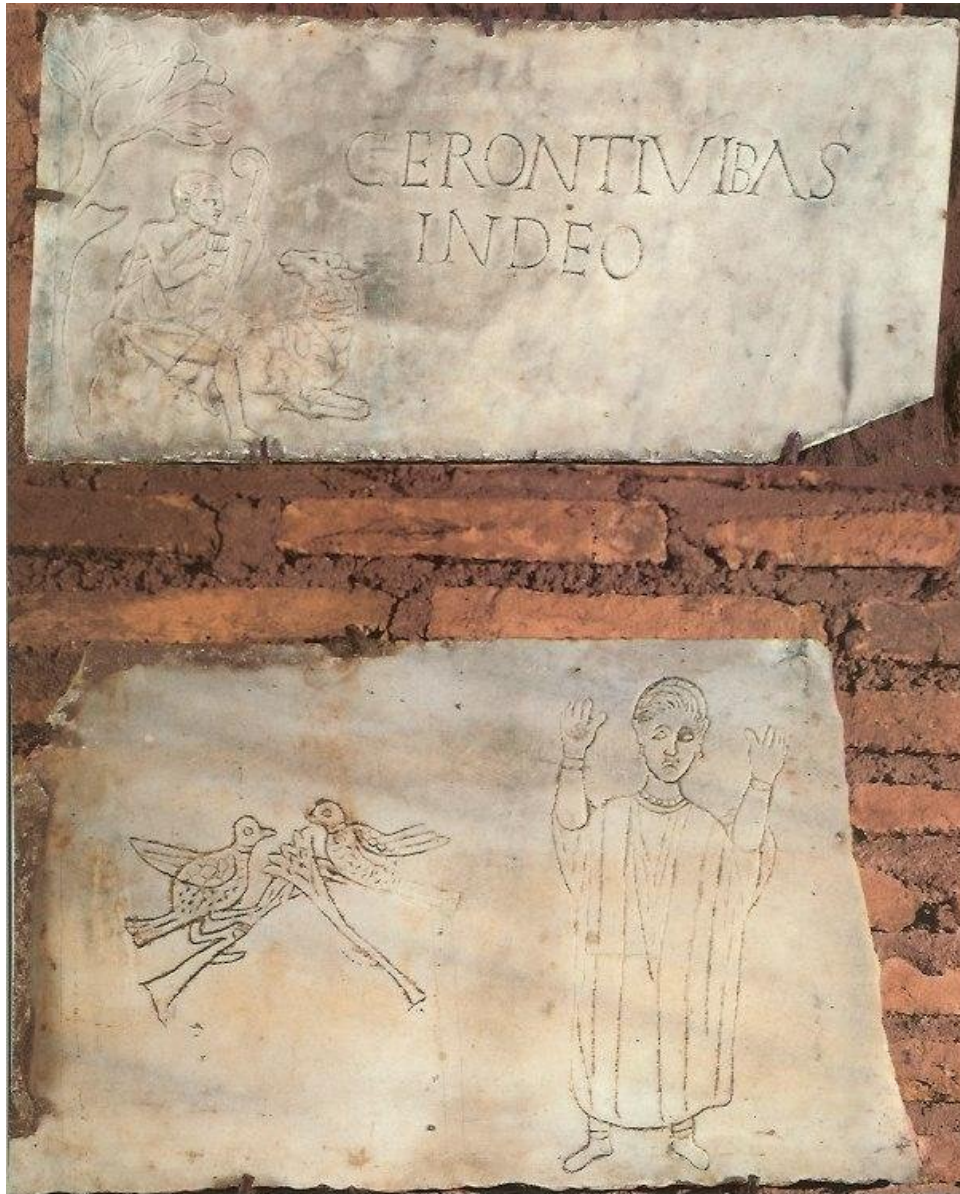


Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Prayerful Images

This webpage is an introduction to what we hope will be a series of *Prayerful Images* to share for all to contemplate. From time to time we will be adding images which inspire us to spiritual experiences through our visual senses. What we see makes us think of life beyond the present or in the spiritual past with the lives of the many Saints. These images suggest that God is here in our daily life. If you have an image to share with us, please feel free to contact OLOL Parish or send us an email (JSobala@dor.org). God Bless!

Our first *Prayerful Image* comes from the Catacombs of St. Domitilla, outside of Rome. The catacombs were burial places during the 3rd to 5th centuries. The walls were often marked by appropriate faith symbols or encouragements to prayer.



The figure with the upraised arms, shown in this photograph, is called the ORANS or praying person. The figure is carved into the marble somewhere in one of the miles of galleries in the catacombs. The ORANS is an ordinary believer, not a priest or dedicated religious figure. The message for the viewer is that when you pray, no matter who you are, look up and lift your arms in prayer.