

## **GREGORY THE WONDERWORKER**

**Gregory the Wonderworker is often referred to as a “Second Moses.” Born in the city of Pontus of wealthy and eminent parents in 203 A. D. Gregory, whose given name was Theodore, grew up receiving the best of educations. He was extremely interested in philosophy, but somehow felt the Greek and Egyptian thought of his time was not complete or fulfilling for his intellectual needs. He went off to study in Alexandria, where he fell under the influence of Origen and other Christian teachers. The young scholar soon embraced Christianity and was baptized into the faith, taking the name of Gregory.**

**By the time Gregory returned to his home region of Neocaesarea, he had but one goal to fulfill: winning souls for Christ. A gathering of fellow Christians found that they were only 17 in number! Indeed, Gregory had his work cut out for him. A lesser man would have been discouraged, but Gregory was not a lesser man! He was consecrated bishop and soon his tiny flock began to grow. It is said that Gregory had the power to drive away evil spirits and to heal illnesses and diseases. When a plague hit Asia Minor in 253 A. D., Gregory tirelessly ministered to those suffering its effects. His inspiring example led to the conversion of thousands of pagans.**

**Gregory fell asleep in the Lord in 270 A.D. At the time of his death, the spiritual environment of his city had been completely reversed. Now there were no pagans to be found in what this “Second Moses” had molded into a vibrant Christian community.**