ENGLISH MISSIONARIES TO THE CONTINENT

Willibroard (648-739) Apostle to the Netherlands
Born to godly couple in Northumbria. Mother’s vision that he would be a missionary. Placed under Wilfrid at Ripon.
Twelve years in monastic schools of Ireland.
At 33 chose 11 disciples and left Ireland for Frisia (690) where he would work for 50 years. Archbishop of Utrecht (695).

Winfred or Boniface (680-754) The Apostle to the Germans
Born near Crediton and Exeter in Devon in Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex.
At 4 or 5 wanted to enter monastery against wishes of his father. Placed in monastery of Exmunchester and then at Nursling. Distinguished in grammar, rhetoric, and poetry. Became a tutor.
Went to Netherlands and worked under Willibroard (719-722).
Attempted to convert Radbod of the Frisians.
Went to Rome where Pope Gregory II appointed him a missionary to the Germans.
Archbishop of Bavaria in 732.
Conversion of Hessians at Oak of Geismar.
Boniface’s methods: letters, recruiting, work with women, conversion of kings.
Fulda the mother monastery of Germany.
Boniface labored to unite all monasteries with Rome. Received help from the Franks.
Martyrdom among the Frisians.

THE FRANKISH CHURCH

Venantius Fortunatus the hymn writer of France.

THE DO-NOTHING MEROVINGIAN KINGS AND THE MAYORS OF THE PALACE:
Count Pepin of Landen married his daughter to son of St. Arnulf, Bishop of Metz. Pepin became mayor of palace in Austrasias where Dagobert (629-639) was king. Grimwald, son of Pepin failed in attempt to make his son, Childebert, king. Ebroin, mayor of palace of Neustria tried to unite all France but was murdered. Pepin of Heristal, grandson of old Pepin, made himself mayor of all France (died 714). His campaigns against Frisians helped Charles Martel (the Hammer, illegitimate son of Pepin of Heristal) defeated Moslems at Tours in 732.
Pepin the Short in 752 persuaded Pope Zacharias (741-752) and Boniface to send Childeric III (743-752) to monstery and make Pepin king—the first of the Carolingians.