

Martin de Barcos (1600 -- 1678) , was a French Catholic priest and theologian of the Jansenist School

Barcos was born at Bayonne , a nephew of Jean du Vergier de Hauranne , the commendatory abbot of the Abbey of Saint - Cyran in the Duchy of Berry

When he returned to France he served for a time as tutor to a son of Robert Arnauld d'Andilly and later , in 1644 , succeeded his uncle as the owner of the

He did much to improve the abbey ; new buildings were erected , and the library much enhanced

Unlike many commendatory abbots of his day , however , who scarcely ever saw the monasteries over which they held authority , Barcos became an active

He died there

Barcos ' ties with Du Vergier and Arnauld and , through them , with the Abbey of Port - Royal - des - Champs , soon brought him to the front in the debate

He collaborated with his uncle in the *Petrus Aurelius* and with Arnauld in the book on Frequent Communion

Of Barcos ' own treatises , some bear on authority in the Church and some on the then - much mooted questions of grace and predestination

To the first class belong (1) *De l'autorité de saint Pierre et de saint Paul* (1645) , (2) *Grandeur de l'Église de Rome qui repose sur l'autorité de saint Pierre*

(3) *Éclaircissements sur quelques objections que l'on a formées contre la grandeur de l'Église de Rome* (1646)

These three books were written in support of an assertion contained in the book *On Frequent Communion* , namely : `` St

Peter and St

Paul are the two heads of the Roman Church and the two are one "

This theory of dual church authority , implying an equality of the two apostles , was condemned as heretical by Pope Innocent X in 1674 (Denzinger , *Enchiridion* , Er

To the second class belong : A censure of Jacques Sirmond 's *Praedestinatus* (1644)

Quae sit Sancti Augustini et doctrinae eius auctoritas in ecclesia ? (1650)

Barcos holds that a proposition clearly founded on St

Augustine can be absolutely accepted and taught , regardless of a papal bull

For this he was condemned by Pope Alexander VIII , 1690 (Cf

Denzinger , no

1187)

Some critics of the Jansenists argued that they placed too much emphasis on their interpretation various teachings of Augustine

Exposition de la foy de l'Église romaine touchant la grâce et la prédestination (1696)

This book was written at the request of the Jansenist Bishop of Aleth , Nicolas Pavillon , and may be looked upon as the official exposé of Jansenism

It was condemned by the Holy Office , 1697 , and again , 1704 , when it was published with the *Instructions sur la grâce* of Antoine Arnauld