

While he was greatly beloved by the people, he did not have a great church like that of Rome behind him as Liberius did and Pothius ? was seized under threat of torture and seems to have signed some sort of a statement. At any rate we do know that Pothius went back to Spain and spent his later years in severe regret and penitence for having given in under the threat of torture and signed a statement that he did not believe. So you see how completely in control Constantius was of the empire during these last few years and completely in control over the church; even though Christianity was not a state religion as yet. The state religion was officially paganism. The meetings of the Roman senate were begun and ended with sacrifices to the Roman gods. The old forms were held. The Roman Emperor was the Pontifex Maximum which is the old pagan name for the head of the pagan religion. It's the name the Pope now uses. But at that time it was used by the emperor and had been for hundreds of years. The Name for the head of the pagan religion. And the emperor when he became emperor was formally installed as Pontifex Maximum but neither ~~Constantine~~ Constantine, nor Constantius nor Constans paid any attention to the duties of Pontifex Maximum. They did not themselves perform any pagan ceremonies but officially they had the ~~title~~ title and officially they had the pagan religion.

question - Hosius -not one of the greatest characters, he is one that deserves to be remembered. He was presiding officer at the council of nicea - first ecumenical council. Some unscholarly Roman Catholic books say that ~~of the~~ Hosius presided at the first Ecumenical Council as representative of Pope Sylvester but no scholarly books say that because there is no evidence. It would be purely imagination. He presided as a great Christian leader from the West, a friend of the emperor Constantine who appointed him to preside. He lived a long life of service to the Lord. A fine Christian man. It is very sad to see how he lost in the last years of his life but he bitterly repented of it and left abundant evidence of how he felt for having given in.