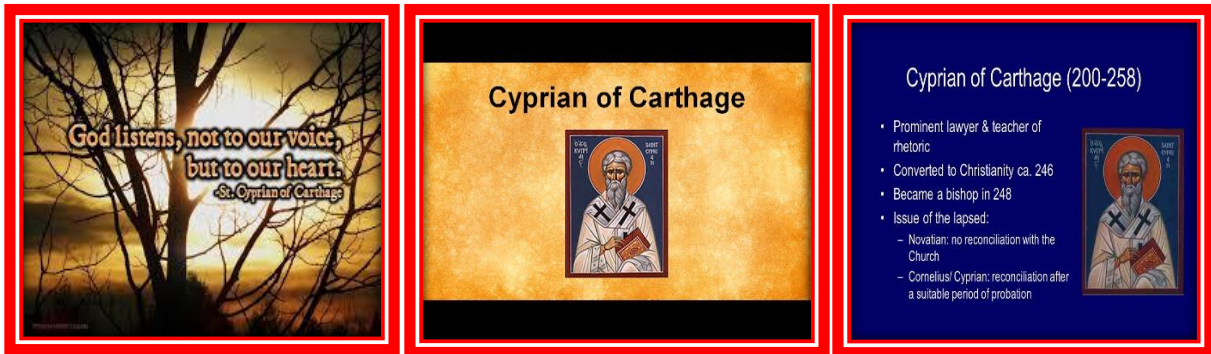


Daily Saints - 16 September



Feast of Saint Cyprian of Carthage

Born: c. 200-210; Carthage, Roman Empire **Died:** 14 September 258; Carthage
Venerated in Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox **Feast:** 16 September (Western Orthodox, Catholic, and Lutheran)

Cyprian was born to wealthy pagans about the year 190 in Carthage, North Africa. He was educated in the classics and rhetoric. He converted at the age of 56. He was taught the faith by Saint Caecilius of Carthage. He was ordained a priest in 247 and a bishop after two years in 249.

His writings are of great importance, especially his treatise on The Unity of the Catholic Church in which he argues that unity is grounded in the authority of the bishop, and among the bishops, in the primacy of the See of Rome.

During the Decian persecutions, Cyprian considered it wiser to go into hiding and guide his flock covertly rather than seek the glorious crown of martyrdom, a decision that his enemies attacked him for. His enemies condemned him for being a coward and not standing up for his faith.

As a writer, he was second only in importance to Tertullian as a Latin Father of the Church. He was a friend of Saint Pontius. He was involved in the great argument over whether apostates should be readmitted to the Church; Cyprian believed they should but under stringent conditions.

He supported Pope Saint Cornelius against the anti-pope Novatian. During the persecutions of Valerian, he was exiled to Curubis in 257, brought back Carthage, and then martyred: beheaded 14 September 258 in Carthage, North Africa.

Quotes of St. Cyprian

- "Be constantly committed to prayer or to reading [Scripture]; by praying, you speak to God, in reading, God speaks to you."

- "No one is strong in his own strength, but he is safe by the grace and mercy of God."
- "Whatever a man prefers to God, that he makes a god to himself."
- "May all Christians be found worthy of either the pure white crown of a holy life or the royal red crown of martyrdom."
- "You cannot have God for your Father if you do not have the Church for your mother... God is one and Christ is one, and his Church is one; one is the faith, and one is the people cemented together by harmony into the strong unity of a body... If we are the heirs of Christ, let us abide in the peace of Christ; if we are the sons of God, let us be lovers of peace."
- "Let us remember one another in concord and unanimity. Let us on both sides of death always pray for one another. Let us relieve burdens and afflictions by mutual love, that if one of us, by the swiftness of divine condescension, shall go hence the first, our love may continue in the presence of the Lord, and our prayers for our brethren and sisters not cease in the presence of the Father's mercy."
- "Wherever you may be your adversary is with you, your sin rankles within."
- "It must be a self-willed evil to persecute a person whom God has taken under the protection of His grace; it becomes an irremediable sin to hate a man whom God wishes to make happy."
- "This supernatural bread and this consecrated chalice are for the health and salvation of mankind."
- "If He prayed who was without sin, how much more it becometh a sinner to pray!"
- "Think not that you are thus maintaining the Gospel of Christ when you separate yourselves from the flock of Christ."
- "Envy is as prolific as it is hurtful; it is the root of all evil, the source of endless disorder and misery, the cause of most sins that are committed. Envy gives birth to hatred and animosity. From it, avarice is begotten, for it sees with an evil eye honors and emoluments heaped upon a stranger, and thinks that such honors should have been, by right, bestowed upon himself. From envy comes contempt of God, and of the salutary precepts of our Savior. The envious man is cruel, proud, unfaithful, impatient, and quarrelsome; and, what is strange, when this vice gains the mastery, he is no longer master of himself, and he is unable to correct his many faults. If the bond of peace is broken, if the rights of fraternal charity are violated, if the truth is altered or disguised, it is often envy that hurries him on to crime."
- "Their property held them in chains...chains which shackled their courage and choked their faith and hampered their judgment and throttled their soul...If they stored up their treasure in heaven, they would not now have an enemy and a thief within their own household...They think of themselves as owners, whereas it is they rather who are owned: enslaved as they are to their own property, they are not the masters of their money but its slaves."