

## March 6

**E. Holy 42 Martyrs of Amorium: Constantine, Astius, Theophilus, Theodore, Melissenus, Callistus, Basoes and the rest**

They were notable citizens and defenders of the city of Amorium in Phrygia during a Saracen attack. Not considering their courageous defense, the city was betrayed by one of the Amorian leaders and they were captured. After seven years of languor in prison the holy passion bearers were beheaded in the city of Zimara on the Euphrates River for refusing to accept Islam about the year 847.

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**The newly revealed stars of faith,  
Fervently suffering for Christ,  
Let us all worthily crown with praiseworthy wreaths;  
Praying to Christ for us,  
As real pillars they supported the Christian realm.**

*Ven. Arcadius of Cyprus*

A monk and ascetic from youth on the Island of Cyprus, he was trainer and director of the Holy Martyrs Julian the physician and Eubulus who suffered under Julian [the Apostate]. Having mourned the death of the martyrs, Ven. Arcadius also soon peacefully departed to the Lord after the year 361.

*Ven. Martyr Conon and his son Conon*

They suffered during the reign of Aurelian (270-275). St. Conon lived in Iconium in Asia Minor and having become a widower, went with his seven-year son to a monastery where for a strict ascetic life he received from God the gift of working wonders and converted many to Christ. The head of the province, having learned about this, subjected St. Conon and his son to horrible torture and ordered both to be sawn with a wooden saw.

*The Finding of the Honorable Cross and Honorable Nails by the Empress St. Helen.*

*Czestochowa Icons of the Mother of God*

According to tradition, this icon traces its beginning to deep antiquity. It was brought out of Constantinople and up to the 14th century, more than 300 years; was in the city of Belz, Galicia in the Court Orthodox Church, being glorified for

working many wonders. In this way, it was saved in the fortress of Belz from the raids of the Tartars.

With transition of Galicia to the authority of Poland the Latins seized the holy icon. In 1352 the Polish Prince Vladislav Opolski transferred the holy icon to Iasna Gora [Clear Mountain] near the city of Czestochowa.

In 1717 with the blessing of the Pope, the Poles crowned their kings before this holy icon<sup>1</sup>.

At the present time this wonderworking icon is equally respected and honored by both the Orthodox and Roman Catholics.

In 1813 the Poles gave an ancient copy of this icon to Baron Saken. Emperor Alexander 1 adorned it with a rich covering and placed it in the Kazan cathedral in St. Petersburg.

Besides this copy, other copies of the Czestochowa icon of the Mother of God are in the Khoroshevsky Convent (Kharkov Diocese) and in the Kremenets St. Nicholas Cathedral (Volhynia Diocese).

---

<sup>1</sup>At Roman Catholic coronations the icon is recognized as wonderworking by the entire Roman Catholic Church

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0103b-0104. Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris © December 3, 2007. All rights reserved.*