

March 14

D. *Ven. Benedict*

Born in Nursia, Italy, the son of rich and famous parents and when he was 14 years old he was sent to Rome for his education. But the youth, disdained secular philosophy and the dissolute life of his fellow students at school, soon left Rome and, having settled in a certain deserted place near the city, devoted himself to anchorite asceticism. Within 3 years the place of his ascetic efforts [podvig] were revealed and adherents of piety began to flow down to him from everywhere. At the insistence of the monks of the neighboring monastery he became their rector, but he soon left them, having noticed that the brethren were dissatisfied with the severity of his typikon [ustav, rule].

In 528, he and some of the monks went to Campania and there founded the Monastery of John the Baptist on Monte Cassino where he was the rector up to his death, which followed in the year 543. As "beauty leading a monastic life", he led "the majority of the saved" to the Lord.

He was worthy of the gift of clairvoyance and wonders and wrote the typikon [ustav, rule] for the brethren of his monastery, who began to refer to it by his name - the Benedictine. Accepted in the monasteries of the West, this rule [ustav, typikon] prescribed the renunciation of personal possessions, obedience to the rector and continual labor, after prayers they were assigned handiwork for acquiring the means of making a living and the old monks were assigned the copying of manuscripts and the training of children.

Kontakion, tone 6

**You were enriched with the grace of God,
Your works agreed with your name:
And you were revealed, O Benedict,
As pleasing to Christ God in prayers and fasting,
You were filled with the gifts of the Spirit of God:
And you were a healer of the sick, the banisher of enemies and speedy
intercessor for our souls.**

St. Eusemon, Bishop of Lampsacus

He lived in the 9th century and was the contemporary of Theodore the Studite. He suffered in chains and exile for iconolatry and died during the reign of Theodore the Iconoclast.

St. Theognostus, Metropolitan of Kiev and Moscow

Born a Greek, he was consecrated as metropolitan in Constantinople in 1328. He was the successor of St. Peter and rendered many services in Russia.

During his 25 years of service, being the wise counselor and guide of Muscovite princes, he went to Khan Dzhani-bek to ask him about freeing the Russian clergy from tribute and was successful in this endeavor. Besides this he zealously restored and built temples of God. He died in 1353. In 1471, his relics were found incorrupt and began to be a source of wonders. They rest in a hidden place in the Dormition Cathedral in Moscow.

Commemoration of the Theodore Icon of the All Holy Theotokos

This icon appeared on August 16, 1239 to the Kostroma Prince Basil Kvashnia when he was hunting. It was named Theodore because it was placed in the Church of St. Theodore Stratelates.

Before this icon the Tsarina Martha Ivanovna blessed her son Michael Fedorovich as the Tsar and consequently the day of his election to the throne became the day of commemorating the Theodore Icon of the Mother of God.

This icon is now in the Kostroma Dormition Cathedral (Refer to the St. Theodore Monastery in the Nizhni Novgorod Diocese).

Among the holy icons in the cathedral temple for the Winter Palace there is also a Theodore Icon of the Mother of God, which our reverent Sovereigns celebrated and venerated up to now.

Repose of the Right-believing Great Prince of Kiev Rostislav-Michael Mstislavich

The grandson of Monomach, Rostislav was distinguished for his courage and exploits of courage and lofty Christian qualities: he was meek, compliant and peace-loving. Love for his subordinates and wishing them every blessing, the forgetting of their offences and constant remembrance of their sins became an integral part of his soul. In Smolensk, his original destiny, he built many temples and with his good qualities he received the full love of the people. This same love of the people later elected him prince of Kiev. He died in 1168 and was buried in the Kievan-Theodorov Monastery.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0111-0112.
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