

May 27

G. *Holy Hieromartyr Therapontes, Bishop of Sardis*

"Having first cleansed his soul from passionate rumors" and "having tamed the storm of passions through abstinence", he as "a true hierarch" zealously enlightened the pagans through the holy faith and many of them converted to Christ for which they underwent cruel suffering in the reign of Valerian. At first the holy sufferer was put into prison where for a long time he was tormented with hunger and suffered from thirst, but then they began to move the holy martyr from one place to another, who was subjected to cruel torture in Sinope, Ancyra [Ankara] and Lydia. In one place near the Astale River, the hierarch was spread crosswise and nailed to a dry pole and was turned over to scourging. Steeped in the blood of the holy martyr the pole wonderfully sprouted into an oak tree with leaves that healed the sick. "Wishing to see the glory of the Pantocrator", the holy martyr, "rejoicing", underwent the most "unrighteous death", being beheaded by the sword.

† *Discovery of the Relics of Our Ven. Father Nilus on Stoloben Island on Lake Seliger, the New Wonderworker* in 1667 during the digging of the foundation for a stone cathedral in his hermitage (see December 7).

Matins Gospel: Mt. 11:27-30; sel. 43. **Epistle:** 2 Cor. 4:6-15; sel. 176.
Gospel: Lk. 6:17-23; sel. 24.

His Synaxis is done where his relics lie and where his temple exists.

Virgin Martyr Theodora and the Warrior Didymus

St. Theodora for her unwillingness to renounce Christ was taken to a brothel for corruption. St. Didymus, dressing her in his clothes and enabling her to leave there, thus avoiding desecration, was executed by the sword for this action. St. Theodora accepted the same crown of martyrdom after him in 304 in Alexandria.

Translation of relics of Three Holy Hierarchs: Cyprian, Photius and Jonah, Metropolitans of Kiev and all Russia, Wonderworkers to the new stone Cathedral of the Dormition in Moscow in 1472.

Ven. Therapontes, Beloozero Wonderworker

Born in Volokolamsk (Moscow Province) of a noble family Peskochipov, since childhood he was shown to be striving for a pious life and monasticism.

According to his biographer, Therapontes, although "not clever in the letters" but having a sound mind and a good heart, is why he more and more established himself in piety and, being 40 years old, he, without preparatory probation, St. Theodore was tonsured in the Moscow Simonov Monastery where he was attached to Ven. Cyril (see June 9). From time to time he heard here the teachings of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh.

Together with Ven. Cyril of Beloozero [White Lake] he soon left for Beloozero [White Lake] (Novgorod Province) and after a short time began to live as a hermit. Having chosen a fine solitary place between two lakes and having cleared away the ground for an enclosed vegetable garden, he built a hut for himself. In the first period he suffered the inconvenience of solitude and more than once was exposed to attacks of robbers, who wanted to expel him from there. Eventually many other lovers of silence gathered around him, and Ven. Therapontes (in 1398) founded a monastery (see Jan. 12.), but because of his humility he never accepted the dignity of Hegumen.

While at the monastery Therapontes established the dormitory and in his labor demonstrated an example of unremitting laboriousness to the brethren: the brethren were engaged in building kellia, writing books, and various crafts. In 1408, at the request of the Mozhaïsk Prince Andrew, who deeply considered Ven. Therapontes a holy ascetic, he founded another monastery in Luzha about half a verst [0.33 miles] from Mozhaïsk (see Moscow Diocese).

After 18 years of asceticism in this monastery, Ven. Therapontes died in 1426 as its archimandrite, being 90 year old starets [elder]. His holy relics repose in a hidden place in the temple named after him in the Luzha Mozhaïsk Monastery.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0188-0189.
Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris © June 13, 2007. All rights reserved.*