

July 9

F. Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina

Born in Antioch, the Apostle Peter, his teacher, installed Pancratius as the Bishop of Taormina in Sicily. He working many wonders converted many pagans to Christ. The pagans who hated his preaching of Christ murdered the gentle pastor. His relics are in Rome.

Kontakion, tone 4

**You were revealed as a brilliant star, O Pancratius,
For the people of Taormina.
You were shown also to be a sufferer for Christ.
Since now you stand before Him, O Blessed One,
Pray for those who honor you.**

(Text tr. Holy Myrrhbearing Women Monastery)

Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna

Having served as hierarch for fifty years in the city of Gortyna on the island of Crete, he converted many to Christ. At a very old age St. Cyril has been taken to court for this and was cast into the fire. God wonderfully protected him from the fire unharmed, but then the hierarch was beheaded. It was about the middle of the Third Century.

St. Theodore, Bishop of Edessa.

He was born in the city of Edessa of pious parents, who, having an only daughter, fervently prayed to God for the gift of a son. Having entered school in his youth to study grammar, the adolescent Theodore appeared stupid and unsuccessful, for which his parents and teachers frequently punished him and his peers heaped ridicule upon him. Then the young Theodore turned to the Lord with warm prayers and he asked Him for understanding. Once, before a liturgy, the young man hid in the sanctuary under the altar and here again, praying fell asleep. The hierarchical service began. The adolescent dreams that a light-bearing young man feeds him honey, hands him a staff and blesses him. Having awakened, Theodore comes out from under the altar and, on demand of the amazed bishop, tells him about his sufferings, prayers to God and about his dream. Having understood from the tale that the prayer of the adolescent is heard, and that he is

destined to be a pastor of the Church, the bishop ordered that Theodore be received among the clergy. Subsequently, still being a young man, St. Theodore, according to a special suggestion from above, left for Palestine to the St. Sabbas Monastery, where he was tonsured a monk and served for more than 30 years. After the death of the bishop of Edessa, Theodore, against his will, occupied his cathedra, enlightening his flock in word and deed. At one time being in Babylon on Church affairs, he healed and converted the Persian King Mavi to the true faith, who later, under the name John, being sentenced to death for the confession of Christ, died as a martyr together with three Christian youths. St. Theodore died in the Laura of St. Sabbas in 848, being foretold in a dream about his departure from the world. Now commemorated together with him are others pleasing to God: two natural brothers, Theodosius, the pillar dweller of Edessa, to whom St. Theodore frequently came for conversations, and John, the faster of Babylon, and then the noble and wealthy man, Ader, disciple of St. Theodosius the pillar dweller, who was tonsured into monasticism with the name Athanasius and others.

The Venerable Martyrs Patermuthius and Coprius and the Martyr Alexander the Warrior.

Ascetics of the Egyptian desert, Saints Patermuthius and Coprius were tried in the court of Julian for their firm confession of Christ and for this have been sentenced to severe torture after which they were beheaded. Seeing the firmness in their sufferings St. Alexander the Warrior converted to Christ, and for this he was thrown in a fiery furnace.

Venerable Patermuthius and Coprius, Fourth Century Egyptian Ascetics

Saint Patermuthius, at first a pagan, an ataman of robbers and a grave digger, was converted to Christ by a vision of God, received holy baptism, and left for the desert and, having cleansed his soul through repentance, received the gift of wonder working. His favorite occupation was to serve the ill and to bury the dead. Saint Coprius, a presbyter, who witnessed the ascetical efforts of the Venerable Patermuthius, was the narrator of his wonders and he himself had the gift of wonderworking.

The Appearance of the Wonder-working Image of the Most Holy Theotokos on the Koloch River

This holy icon appeared in 1413 fifteen versts [about 10 miles] from the city of Mozhaisk (Moscow District), on the shore of the Koloch River, Smolensk

District, in the forest, by the peasant Luke who, fervently prayed before it, and brought it into his home. In his home a paralytic was laying there for many years. Having heard about the appearance of the icon, the sick man with faith was brought to it and received healing. Many of the suffering were directed to the revealed icon and received beneficial help. Luke brought the icon to Mozhaisk where he met the Prince Andrew Demetievich of Mozhaisk with numerous people and here again many of the ill received healing. A temple was constructed in the name of the Theotokos on the place where the icon appeared for housing the revealed wonder-working holy icon, and also a men's monastery was built there (see the Smolensk Diocese).

Cypriot Icon of the Mother of God, see Apr. 20.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd. Ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp 234-5
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