

# August 28

## E. Our Ven. Father Moses the Moor (i.e. Black)



Born in Ethiopia, the slave to one famous person, who put him away for bad behavior, he did not want to carry out his life in honorable labor, became a leader of thieves, violently used the fruits of another's labor, and was distinguished by the strength of his predilection for wrong. Subsequently, after a long depraved life and having done every kind of evil deed, the grace of God touched the heart of Moses the sinner, who abandoned the "adornments of the world", repented of his sins, left for one of the scete monasteries and here zealously fulfilled all monastic obedience. But the memory of his former depraved life as a thief did not soon leave him. Especially strong obscene thoughts and such warfare of carnal lusts arose in the ascetic that he was in danger of changing his monastic vow. According to the advice of one elder, Moses began to exhaust his flesh with a strict fast, but the temptations of the enemy did not leave him. After this Moses followed the advice of another elder and began to practice the ascetic effort of continual prayer, standing all night for six years in prayer, seldom closing his eyes. But even these earnest prayers could not restrain his carnal lusts. Finally, Moses found the means for victory over the temptations of the enemy. As before "subduing the flesh through fasting" and "with the mighty pangs of abstinence", each night he passed by the hermits, collecting their empty water-noses, filling them with water, put them at the entrance of their cells. Such labor was the greatest simplification for many of the elder monks, who in old age were not able to get water for themselves, and for Moses it was a saving remedy to repay the debts in his soul for his passionate lusts and shots "of Ethiopian thoughts". And from this time on calmness and complete absence of alien thoughts and of carnal lusts have settled in the soul of Moses. Rewarded for a Holy life with the dignity of presbyter, the Ven. Moses died in about the year 400 by a martyr's death. Together with 6 of his disciples he was killed by barbarians who attacked the monastery.

*Kontakion, tone 4*

**Having curbed the Moors and pursuits of the demons,  
In thought you shone brightly as the sun,  
With the light of your way of life and teaching,  
Catechizing our souls.**

*Ven. Sabbas Krypetsky (or Pskovsky)*

Born a Serb he came to Russia, accepted monasticism in the Pskov Sviatogorsky Monastery. From here he left for the Krypetsky Hermitage and, after long lonely ascetic efforts, founded there a monastery in honor of the Holy Apostle John the Theologian. Because of the high standards of life of the founder, the monastery soon received profound recognition and welcomed many visitors. Ven. Sabbas received everyone with love and released none without edification. He died in deep old age in 1495. In 1554 while digging a trench for a new stone church in the monastery, the incorruptible relics of the Ven. Sabbas were found and became glorified for many miracles.

*Holy Righteous Anna, the prophetess, daughter of Phanuel*, who met the Lord in the Jerusalem temple. See February 3.

*Righteous Hezekiah, Judaic King*

The son of King Ahaz, he was enthroned in the year 721 before the birth of Christ and reigned for 29 years. He purified and opened the temple of Solomon for worship services that was closed by his predecessors, and was glorified for his piety and love for God.

*Commemoration of the Saints pleasing to God of the Monastery of the Caves reposing in the distant cave of the Ven. Theodosius:*

*Moses, Wonderworker.* He subdued his body in various ways. For example he carried an iron belt and an iron cross, which he made for himself, on his naked body. For his asceticism and labors he received the gift of working wonders.

*Lawrence, Hermit.*

*Hilarion, Schema-monk.*

*Paphnutius, Hermit.* Constantly crying in recollecting the hour of his death, so he led all his life, and dying he saw choirs of angels which, having come, took his soul and carried it to heaven.

*Martyrius, Deacon.* For his high purity and Lenten asceticism he became worthy of the deaconate and rewarded with the gift of miracles. Everyone for whom he prayed before God, standing on the ambo, received what they requested. He banished evil spirits by his prayer.

*Theodore, Prince of Ostrog.* He fervently built and adorned Orthodox temples in Volhynia and was the courageous defender of the Orthodox against the violence of Papism. Together with his acceptance of monasticism in the Kievan Monastery of the Caves he also accepted the new name of Theodosius (see July 6, page 231).

*Athanasius, Hermit.*

*Dionysius, Hermit,* nicknamed the Chip. He was a hieromonk and overseer of the caves in the Kievan Monastery of the Caves. Passing through this modest obedience, he achieved such holiness that on the day of Holy Pascha (as this is narrated in his Life), when coming to a cave to cense the relics of the saints, he said according to custom: "Christ is risen"! that at this moment was heard the response from all the relics: "Truly, He is risen"! This event so astounded Dionysius that he left for the solitary life.

*Theophilus, Bishop of Novgorod.* The last bishop of free Novgorod, he first practiced asceticism in the Otensky Monastery and during the time of St. Jonah he was the Protodeacon and the sacristan of the Episcopal see. After the death of St. Jonah, Theophilus was elected by lot as the Archbishop of Novgorod. He became known as a zealous adherent of Orthodoxy during the Novgorod civil wars. He died in about the year 1480 near Kiev where he went to venerate the saints. His relics repose in a reliquary.

*Zeno, FASTER and hard laborer.* He pleased God with many ascetic efforts of the virtuous monastic way of life: fasting, prayer, humility and obedience.

*Gregory, Wonderworker.* He was distinguished by various ascetic efforts of abstinence, fasting and prayer. For food during all his life he was served uncooked grass, and for drink, water. He was vouchsafed by God with the gift of working wonders: all the infirm, partaking grass with water, by which he was fed, received healing.

*Hypatius, Doctor and Healer.* All day long he incessantly worked at monastic obedience, but at night he stood in prayer. Serving the Holy fathers

during their illness, he himself received from God such a gift, that a touch of the hand healed the sick.

*Lucian, Presbyter*, endured martyrdom during the Batu invasion in 1239.

*Joseph, the Sickly*. Being many years in illness, he made a vow to his death to serve in the Monastery of the Caves if the Lord bestowed health to him. The Lord heard his prayer and he recovered. Having entered the monastery, he to his very death fervently practiced asceticism, pleasing the Lord through fasting and prayer and serving the monastic brothers with humble obedience.

*Paul, the Obedient*. He never was idle, as a lamb to the slaughter he carried out each obedience assigned to him by the rector.

*Sisoe, Schema-monk*. He carried out his life in great Lenten labors. God bestowed to him victory over passions and evil spirits.

*Nestor* (not the learned one who wrote the Russian Chronicles, but another, unlearned and of the simple sort). He so hotly served the Lord that he saw angels and Christ Himself during his prayers and learned the day of the death.

*Pambo*. He endured suffering for his faith by the Tartar pagans. Probably, this was in 1240 when monks, who were shut in caves by the enemies, were compelled to send Pambo for food. Pambo obediently took on this assignment, but was seized by the Tartars who subjected him to torture. Wonderfully saved from death, he died in seclusion.

*Theodore, the Silent*, embraced the way of silence for salvation.

*Sophronius, Hermit*. He daily read through the Psalter, always wore sackcloth of hair and an iron belt on his body.

*Pancratius, Hieromonk*, reposed in seclusion.

*Anatolius, Hermit*.

*Ammon, Hermit*.

*Ven. Mardarius, Hermit*. He tried to keep the fast, prayer and obedience, and inured himself to full disinterestedness so that he wanted nothing in his cell, except the clothes he wore.

*Porius, Hermit*. He was especially distinguished for his fasting and diligence.

*Martyrius, Hermit*.

*Rufus, Hermit*.

*Benjamin*. A wealthy merchant, he distributed all his wealth, voluntarily accepted poverty and was tonsured a monk. His holy relics reposed incorruptibly.

*Euphrosyne, Hegumena of Polotsk* (see May 23).

*Cassian, Hermit.*

*Arsenius, the Diligent.* He never was idle, and always as he prayed, so also he fulfilled his monastic obedience. He never received food before sunset.

*Euthymius, Schema-monk.* He lived purely and silently, imitating the virtues of the great saints. Having accepted the schema, he never spoke with anyone. He never ate cooked food but only raw vegetables.

*Titus.* He was formerly a warrior. After he was tonsured, he earnestly practiced asceticism in fasting and prayer. With sincere prayerful tears he received from God such grace that while yet alive it was announced about the forgiveness of his sins.

*Achilles, Deacon.* He was a strict faster. For food he was served prosphora, partaken once a week.

*Paisius and Mercurius the Faster.* Living with each other in inseparable brotherly love and of one mind, they incessantly asked God that He not separate them from each other, neither in this life nor in the future. And after their death they were put in the same grave. Now they repose separately.

*Macarius, Deacon.* Being promised to God from childhood, he as a monk so sincerely served God in fasting and prayer that he was granted the gift of working wonders.

*Poemen, the Faster.* He was the Hegumen of the Monastery of the Caves from 1132 until 1141. He ate food only once a week and never weakened from fasting and labor.

*Leontius and Gerontius, Canonarchs of the Great Church of the Monastery of the Caves.* Both monks from adolescence pleased the Lord with prayers, abstinence and zealous learning of their services.

*Zachary, the Faster.* He ate only kernels of spring grain, using this poor food after sunset and in small quantity. He had the grace of driving away evil spirits.

*Silouan, Schema-monk.* According to the Canon, he was "zealous in purity and the keeper of gardens". He once by prayer caught thieves who came to steal the fruit, and then, after absolving them, let them go in peace.

*Agatho, Wonderworker.* By laying on of hands he healed the infirm. He had the gift of prophecy and insight.

*Ignatius, Archimandrite of the Caves* (since 1435). Through his prayers he healed many of the sick.

*Longinus, Gatekeeper of the Caves.* He knew the thoughts of the people who entered and left the monastery.

All the Venerable Ones in the Cave of the Venerable Theodosius were 45, of them probably 32 are those who reposed and 13 are in seclusion. Besides this in the hand-written church calendar and memorials are commemorated the memory of those who repose or invisibly repose in the St. Theodosius Cave.

### *Hilarion, Metropolitan of Kiev*

Before his consecration to the episcopate he was the presbyter at the temple of the prince who sat in Berestovo. He was a strict ascetic going secretly from his village to the Dnieper to a small, 14 foot little cave for prayer. Already during that time St. Hilarion was known as "a good and literate man, and yet a faster". In 1051 St. Hilarion was installed as the Metropolitan in Kiev by the council of Russian Archpastors. In this position St. Hilarion worked hard at building up church schools and planting true piety in his parishes. St. Hilarion died not earlier than 1066. He left the following edifying works: "Teachings about Law and Grace", "Praise to the Khan Vladimir", "Confession of Faith" and "Instruction about Life".

*Amphilochius, Bishop of Vladimir-in-Volhynia.* According to the sayings of the Chronicles, he was ordained in 1105 and passed away in 1122.

*Simeon, Bishop of Pereiaslav.*

*Timothy, Hegumen of the Caves* since 1127. In 1130 through his diligence the reliquary of the Venerable Theodosius was covered with gold and silver.

*Dositheus, Hegumen of the Caves.* He was the first to bring the order of singing the 12 psalms from Mt. Athos to Russia and wrote the answers to the questions asked of him about the life of Athonite monks.

*Acyndinus, Hegumen of the Caves* since 1219. According to his proposition, a monk of the Monastery of the Caves St. Polycarp (July 24) wrote about the life of some of the venerable ascetics of the Caves. He died in the year 1235.

*Eulogius and Daniel, Startsi.*

### *Martyr Shushanika (Susanna)*

She was the daughter of the Georgian king and the spouse of the Georgian Prince Varsken. When the latter, in his impiety, renounced Christ, St. Shushana no longer wanted to be his wife, and for this she was turned over to cruel torture after which she was enclosed in a dark and dank dungeon. Here St. Shushana spent all of 6 years, well pleasing to God through continual prayer and fasting, and reached such heights of spiritual life that she worked wonders. Exhausted by her strict asceticism she peacefully died in the dungeon in about the year 466. Her relics are in the Metekhi Church in Tiflis.