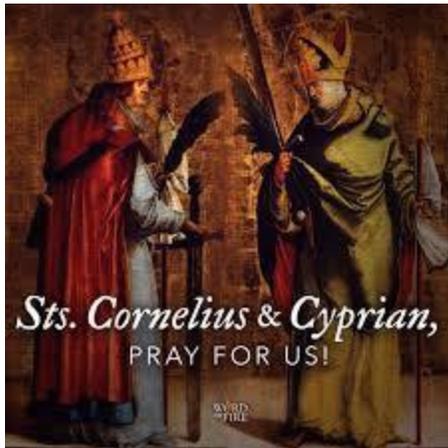


Wednesday 16 September 2020

Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian



Cornelius was made bishop of the church in Rome in the year 251. He fought against the Novatian schismatics, and established his authority with the aid of Cyprian. The emperor Gallus sent him into exile, and he died at Civitavecchia in June 253. He is buried in Rome.

Cyprian was born in Carthage and was a lawyer for most of his life. He was converted to Christianity, and was made bishop of Carthage in 249. He steered the church through troubled times, including the persecution of the emperor Decius, when he went into hiding so as to be able to continue looking after the church. In 258 the persecution of the emperor Valerian began. Cyprian was first exiled and then on 14th of September, executed, after a trial notable for the calm and courtesy shown by both sides.

Cyprian's many letters and treatises shed much light on a formative period in the Church's history, and are valuable both for their doctrine and for the picture they paint of a group of people in constant peril of their lives but still determined to keep the faith.

Readings at Mass

Entrance Antiphon

The souls of the Saints are rejoicing in heaven, the Saints who followed the footsteps of Christ, and since for love of him they shed their blood, they now exult with Christ for ever.

Collect

O God, who gave Saints Cornelius and Cyprian to your people

as diligent shepherds and valiant Martyrs, grant that through their intercession we may be strengthened in faith and constancy and spend ourselves without reserve for the unity of the Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

The supremacy of charity

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 32(33):2-5,12,22

Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.
O sing him a song that is new,
play loudly, with all your skill.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

Gospel Acclamation cf.1Th2:13

Alleluia, alleluia!
Accept God's message for what it really is:
God's message, and not some human thinking.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 7:31-35
'We played the pipes, and
you wouldn't dance'

Jesus said to the people:
'What description can I find for the men of this
generation? What are they like? They are like
children shouting to one another while they sit in the
market-place:

“We played the pipes for you,
and you wouldn't dance;
we sang dirges,
and you wouldn't cry.”

'For John the Baptist comes, not eating bread, not
drinking wine, and you say, "He is possessed." The
Son of Man comes, eating and drinking, and you say,
"Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax
collectors and sinners." Yet Wisdom has been
proved right by all her children.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, we pray, O Lord, the offerings of your
people
in honour of the passion of your holy Martyrs
Saints Cornelius and Cyprian,
and may the gifts that gave them courage under
persecution
make us, too, steadfast in all trials.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Lk 22: 28-30

It is you who have stood by me in my trials;
and I confer a kingdom on you, says the Lord,
that you may eat and drink at my table in my
kingdom.

Prayer after Communion

Through these mysteries which we have received,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that by the example of the Martyrs
Saints Cornelius and Cyprian
we may be strengthened with the fortitude of your
Spirit
to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel.
Through Christ our Lord.

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