

January 23

D. Holy Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra, and Holy Martyr Agathangelus

St. Clement was born in Ancyra [Ankara] in the Galatian Mountains in the middle of the Third Century of a pagan father and Christian mother. Having lost his father in childhood and his mother when he was 12, forecast a martyr's death for him for his faith in Christ. He was adopted by Sophia, a wealthy, noble and beneficial citizen of Ancyra [Ankara]. With her leadership as an example, young Clement was nurtured in the awe of God. During the time of a terrible famine in Galatia when some pagans not having the means to feed their children abandoned their babies, Sophia gathered, fed and clothed the unfortunate ones. Clement helped her in everything, taught the children and prepared them for holy baptism. Many of them subsequently died as martyrs for their faith in Christ.

The virtuous life of St. Clement was so glorious that being 20 years old, he was consecrated Bishop of Ancyra. Soon after his election to the episcopate the Diocletian persecution erupted and St. Clement was called in for interrogation. He courageously confessed his faith in Christ and terribly suffered torment for it. He suffered these tortures for about 28 years, undergoing them in different cities and from different torturers and all marveled that he could remain alive. St. Clement was hanged on a tree; his body was cut with a sharp iron so that his bones were visible, severely beaten with sticks and stones and cooked over on a slow fire.

But the Lord protected his martyr and wonderfully healed his tormented body. Some times St. Clement was imprisoned. Once he was fed to wild beasts, another time he was sewed up in a bag and thrown into the sea and all the same remained unharmed. His death followed in about the year 312 in his native city of Ancyra [Ankara]: he was beheaded while serving the divine services.

St. Clement was one of the greatest martyrs. Chained in iron, covered with wounds, beaten, he healed the sick, worked wonders and converted many pagans to Christ. The holy church glorifies him as "the divinely radiant star from Ancyra [Ankara], praise of Cappadocia, much suffering martyr, glory of priests, praise of the venerable Ones, intercessor for orphans and advocate of the poor, who enlightens many and blesses the country".

His disciple Agathangelus suffered with him. He was among the warriors guarding St. Clement imprisoned in Rome. Converted to Christ by the hierarch, he accompanied him in all his suffering from Rome to Ancyra [Ankara], where after a 20 year term in prison, he was executed by the sword.

The relics of St. Clement were in the two churches named for him in Constantinople for a long time. In the Thirteenth Century the Latins transferred his head to Paris. Stephen, a Novgorodian (in 1342) and Hierodeacon Zosimus (in 1420) saw his relics in the St. Constantine Monastery in Constantinople.

Troparion, tone 4

**Vine of venerableness and stalk of suffering,
Flower of holiness and fruit granted by God,
You were given to the faithful,
O Ever-blooming All-holy One:
But as one who suffered with the martyrs,
And the throne of first hierarchs,
Pray to Christ God to save our souls.**

Kontakion, tone 4

**You were an honorable branch of the vine of Christ,
O Much-suffering Clement revealed as all-praised,
You cried out with your co-sufferers:
O Christ, You are the shining joy of martyrs.**

Epistle: Heb. 13:7-16; sel. 334. **Gospel:** Jn. 10:9-16; sel. 36.

St. Paulinus the Merciful, Bishop of Nola

St. Paulinus came from a wealthy and noble family of Bordeaux, France, received an excellent formation and held the post of senator. When he was 25 years old, he and his wife converted to Christ and were baptized. Having accepted the true faith, Paulinus refused honors, sold all his wealthy estate, and used the money for acts of Christian love. Not having children, his pious spouse adopted poor orphans, nurtured them and taught them the fear of God.

Aspiring to the lonely life, St. Paulinus left for the Spanish city of Barcelona. The glory of his ascetic life soon spread and the inhabitants of Barcelona asked him to become a presbyter in 393.

Then he left Spain, arrived in the Roman province Campania and here in the city of Nola was elected bishop because of his strict pious life. When the Vandals withdrew many captives to Africa, he used church funds for their ransom, and finally not having the means to redeem the captive son of a certain poor widow, he persuaded her to give him to the Vandal prince in exchange for her son. In the clothes of a slave he entered into service to the barbarian. But his secret was soon revealed and not only received freedom for himself but also obtained it also for all the captives with whom he returned to his country.

The philanthropy and compassion for all the poor and their needs became a distinctive feature of all the activity of the bishop of Nola until his very end. Besides this he is known as a zealous founder of temples and a Christian poet. He died peacefully on June 22, 431. After him remained some letters and hymns containing various moral statements penetrated with deep piety. The relics of St. Paulinus repose in the Church of the Holy Apostle Bartholomew in Rome.

Ven. Mausimas the Syrian

He lived in the Fourth Century near Cyrrhus or Kirfa, Syria. For the sake of the salvation of his soul, he accepted voluntary poverty and devoted all to serving his neighbor. The doors of his dwelling were always open for everyone who had some kind of need in it. In his hut there always were two vessels, one with bread and another with oil. The needy came to him and received food from his hands, but the vessels all the same never became empty. In such a way the Lord glorified his venerable one. He died at the end of the Fourth Century.

Ven. Salamanes the Silent

He was born in the city of Kapersan near the Euphrates River. Having found a solitary cave on the bank of this river, he enclosed himself in it, leading a silent life in the asceticism of abstinence, prayer, meditation of God, patience and suffering of evil, talking only with the one Lord. He is ever-remembered in the Orthodox Church because he was the first who accepted the asceticism of silence, long-sufferingly bearing it up to his very death which followed in and about the year 400.

Ven. Gennadius of Kostroma

He was born in Lithuania of wealthy parents and in the world was called Gregory. Since youth he was known for his piety and especially liked to visit the temple of God and strictly observed the fasts.

Wishing to devote himself to the monastic life, he secretly left his parental home and went to Russia in sackcloth, was in Moscow and in Novgorod, but did not find a monastery there according to his spirit. From Novgorod he was directed to Ven. Alexander (see Aug. 30) on the Svir River, then, with a blessing from Ven. Alexander to Ven. Cornelius of Komel (see May 19) in the Vologda Forest by whom he was tonsured into monasticism with the name Gennadius. Then together with Cornelius settled near the Kostroma River on the shore of Lake Sura. Here they founded a hermitage, later known by the name of the St. Gennadius Monastery (see the Iaroslavl Diocese), and built two churches: one in the name of the Transfiguration of the Lord and the other in the name of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh.

Leading a monastic life, Ven. Gennadius was found in uninterrupted labor, baking Prosphora and bread himself, cutting fire wood and digging ponds with the brethren. His favorite occupation was the writing of icons with which he adorned the temples built by him.

For his pious life the venerable one was awarded the gift of clairvoyance by God. So, being in Moscow, he predicted that the daughter Anastasia of boyar

Roman Zakharin would become an Empress. Really Anastasia became the wife of Emperor Ivan the Terrible and Ven. Gennadius was her sponsor.

The Venerable one died on January 23, 1565 at a very old age, and his relics were found uncorrupted on August 19, 1644. Now they repose in a hidden place in the Transfiguration Temple in the Monastery of Gennadius.

The venerable one wrote a testament and will of the spiritual elder for the newly initiated monk. By Liubimograd Ven. Gennadius means that his monastery is in the Liubim District, Iaroslavl Province.

Commemoration of the Sixth Ecumenical Council See below about Councils.

Ven. Eusebius was an ascetic near Antioch, Syria in the Fourth Century. He led his life as a hermit.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0043-0046.
Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris © January 4, 2007. All rights reserved.*