

# February 13

## *d. Our Venerable Father Martinian*

From his youth the Venerable Martinian settled in the desert, in the vicinity of Palestinian Caesarea. Carnal passions raged in his young body and devilish temptations confused his soul, but Saint Martinian conquered them through strict fasting, prayer and deeds. So he struggled ascetically in the desert for 25 years. He converted Saint Zoë, a former prostitute who was deliberately introduced to him to tempt him, to the saintly life. The holy man of faith, standing barefoot on hot coals and with great effort shifting his severe burns, asked himself: "what will the fire of Gehenna be like"? Struck by the patience and travail of the ascetic, Zoë repented of her deeds and asked Saint Martinian to pray for her. According to his instruction, she went to the St. Paul Monastery in Bethlehem where she remained 10 or 12 years until her death and her strict asceticism expiated her sins. Until her very death she drank no wine, ate only bread and water, and that within a day or two, and slept on the ground. Having recovered from his burns, Saint Martinian left for an uninhabited rocky island and lived on it for a few years in the open-air, receiving food from the wife of a ship's master for whom the Saint made baskets. In the place where these ascetical efforts were made, the Venerable Martinian, in imitation of a holy man of faith, saved the maiden St. Photina who was thrown overboard after a shipwreck and washed ashore on this island by the waves. Having received the maiden on the island, the holy man of faith, in warding off temptation, threw himself into the sea and, with the help of God "carried by a dolphin", reached land. After this the Venerable One spent his life wandering for two years and died in Athens at the beginning of the Fifth century. St. Photina remained on the island and for six years spent a solitary ascetical life and died in peace. In the service for this day, Saints Zoë and Photina are not mentioned by name.

### *Troparion, tone 8*

**You quenched the flames of temptation with the flow of tears, O Blessed One,  
Calming the waves of the sea and the attacks of beasts, you cried out:  
Most blessed are you, O almighty One, saving me from fire and storm.**

### *Kontakion, tone 2*

**Let us worthily praise in hymns the ever-memorable Martinian,  
The pious and practiced ascetic,  
And the honorable sufferer and desert dweller and settler,  
For he trampled on the serpent.**

*Venerable Simeon, the Myrrh-gusher, Prince of the Serbs*

In world he was called Stephan Nemanja. He was the great ruler (prince) of Serbia (1159-1195). During his reign he worked very hard defending his people from Latin influence, Arianism, and other heresies. When he was 80 years old he accepted monasticism, left for Mount Athos and there together with his son Sava (see Jan. 12) remodeled the Hilandar Monastery. He reposed in the year 1200. His relics exuded a fragrant myrrh from which many received healing.

*Saint Eulogius, Archbishop of Alexandria*

He was one of the most dedicated and active shepherds of VI century, directed the Alexandria pastorate for 27 years and all this time with untiring zealously fought against various heresies. He died at a very old age in 607 (but in the opinion of some, in 608).

*Dolinsk icon of the Mother of God.* The place and time of the appearance of this icon are unknown.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp., (Kharkov, 1900) p. 84  
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