

May 18

B. Holy Martyr Theodotus, in Ancyra [Ankara], and with him Seven Holy Virgins: Alexandra, Tecusa, Claudia, Phaina, Euphrasia, Matrona and Julia.

During the Diocletian persecution St. Theodore had an inn in Ancyra [Ankara] and used it as a safe haven for Christians, visited and comforted the holy martyrs in prison, served them and buried the bodies of the sufferers. Christians secretly served the divine services in his house. For a long time the governor did not know about the charitable activities of Theodotus. At the same time seven holy virgins of which the eldest, Tecusa, was the aunt of Theodotus, was arrested for their refusal to wash idols and were turned over to terrible torture after which they were thrown into a lake with stones on their necks. At night St. Theodotus under the light of wonderful lampadas [torches], which lit his way, during the time of strong outflow, took the bodies of the holy martyresses and buried them. On another day the torturers have found out about this, dug up the holy bodies and burned them, and St. Theodotus for his acsesis underwent cruel torture. Strengthened "with spiritual power", Martyr Theodotus did "not incline his hearing to the stroking of enemies" and did not cease to accuse the torturers of pagan error. Then he was beheaded, but they wanted to burn his body. But a terrible storm prevented this and the body of the holy martyr was buried. It was in the year 303. In the church hymns even though the seven virgins are hymned together with Martyr Theodotus, their names are not mentioned.

Kontakion, tone 2

**Having struggled well in suffering,
Together with your co-sufferers, O Theodotus,
And you received the crown of honor,
With the honorable passion-bearing virgins:
Therefore pray continually to Christ God for us all.**

*Martyrs Peter, Dionysius and those with them: Andrew, Paul, Christina,
Heraclius, Paulinus and Benedimus*



The first five martyrs suffered in Lampsacus during the reign of Decius, and the last three suffered in Athens, being thrown into a fiery furnace. All these holy martyrs are mentioned in the service.

Martyrs Simeon, Isaac and Bachtisius

Born in Persia, they suffered in Persia in the Fourth Century during the reign of Shapur II. Simeon was buried in the earth up to his chest and was trampled to death by horses, Isaac was stoned to death and Bachtisius died in prison from his wounds and being already dead, they cut off his head.

Martyr Euphrasia of Nicaea, after much torture for her faith, was thrown into the sea during the reign of Diocletian and Maximian.

Martyr Theodota, suffered in Ancyra [Ankara] in 303 at the same time as St. Theodotus of Ancyra [Ankara].

Martyrs David and Tarichan

Georgian brothers, they suffered in the year 693 by the Persian governor Abdulla for their refusal to confess Mohammedism.

S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2nd ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), p. 0177a
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