

## July 7

### *A. Our Venerable Father Thomas of Malea*

He was a brave and wealthy warrior; but, "having left the turmoil of a bitter way of life" and having cleansed his soul "from muddy passions", he, imitating the "devoted way of life" of Prophet Elijah, settled (not later than the 10th century) in a hermitage, "like the other Carmel, on Mount Malea" in the Peloponnesus and here again "delighting in divine visions" and "cleansing the mind with fasting", became glorified for great asceticism and wonders. According to the witness of the Holy Church, he "by the power of Christ" bestowed "sight to the unseeing", "caused the lame to move freely" and "by prayer caused water to pour forth".

### *Kontakion, tone 4*

**You courageously showed a great victory,  
Inflamed with divine love,  
You spurned the mortal king and all earthly beauty,  
Completing your worldly sojourn on Mount Malea,  
From where you went up to Heaven to the King of kings,  
O Thomas, pray unceasingly for us all.**

### *Our Ven. Father Acacius, Who is mentioned in the "Ladder"*

This ascetic of the Sinai desert in the first half of the 6th century became glorified for the virtue of obedience. According to church hymns, he destroyed "carnal knowledge" and "the fall of the passions through fasting", "through patient abstinence", "with firm patience". He vivified the soul "through the perfection of virtues" and having clothed himself "with the garment of passionlessness", and by asceticism he defeated the "passion of desire", acquired obedience, humility, a pure heart "and an untroubled mind", peacefully and quietly "ending the good course".

### *Kontakion, tone 2*

**Forsaking the world,  
You followed Christ from childhood,  
O All-wise Venerable Acacius,  
Imitating His voluntary humility,  
You deposed the proud torturer:  
Pray unceasingly for us all.**

### *Repose of Eudoxia, Grand Duchess of Moscow, in monasticism Euphrosyne*

The wife of Dmitri Donskoy [of the Don], she led a rather devout life, was like a true mother to the poor, with empathy for the unfortunate and had a special love for the construction of temples. In the eyes of the people she seemed to be a pompous princess who wore expensive clothes and everywhere was a cheerful person, but actually she fasted strictly and humbled her flesh with heavy asceticism. She founded the Ascension Women's Monastery in Moscow. Shortly

before her death announced to her by an angel, she accepted monasticism in the Ascension Monastery and departed in peace to the Lord on July 7, 1407. Her relics are in a hidden place in the Ascension monastery.

### *Hieromartys Presbyter Epictetus and Monk Astion*

St. Epictetus, who led a strict ascetical life and became glorified for the gift of healing, converted the known Pagan named Astion to Christ and baptized him. After this action, both of them left for the mouth of the Danube for ascetic deeds and preaching Christ among the Scythians, most of whom, seeing their miracles, received Holy Baptism. Seized by the Pagans for this and after cruel torture, they were executed by the sword about the year 290.

### *Martyr Cyriacia*



She suffered during the reign of Maximinian, in Nicomedia.

### *Martyrs Peregrinus, Lucian, Pompeius, Hesychius, Papias, Saturninus and Germanus*

During the reign of Trajan, they were drowned in the Macedonian city of Dyrrhachium [Durazzo]. Within 50 years the holy martyrs appeared to the Archbishop of Alexandria and commanded him to get their relics that were cast out into the sea. The hierarch honorably buried them and built a church over them.

### *Martyr Evangelus*

He was the bishop of the city of Tomi (now Constantza, at the mouth of the Danube). He baptized the parents of Astion, Alexander and Marcellina, and was also executed by the sword about the year 290.

### *Blachernae Icon of the Mother of God*

Made from wax-mastic, the icon was found in Blachernae in Constantinople. In 1653 she was sent to Tsar Alexei Michaelovich and is now in the Dormition Cathedral in Moscow. With her help the Emperor Heraclius defeated the barbarians in a campaign against the Persians.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0231-0232  
Translated by Archpriest Eugene D. Tarris © October 11, 2007 Rev. All rights reserved.*