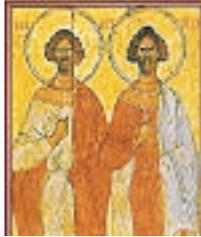


August 18.

A. *The Holy Martyrs Florus and Laurus*



They suffered for their Christian faith in Illyria during the Second Century. They were brothers in the flesh, craft masons, and gave all their money, which they earned from their work, to the poor. Soon they were forced to go to a neighboring country for the construction of a majestic building, intended to be a pagan temple. Here again distributing the money they earned, the brothers preached the Gospel to the pagans and, dispersing the darkness of the "charm of many gods", converted many to Christ. Their sermons proved to be true miracles. When the son of the chief priest of the idols injured his eye with a stone splinter, the brothers spent all night in prayer and in the morning, having made the sign of the cross upon the child, healed him. Then the father of the child with all his family believed in Christ. In such a way, the number of Christians increased and when the building was completed, he devoted himself to the true God, and destroyed "the wooden and stone gods of the godless". The governor of the country, having found out about it, ordered the execution of the participants of the destruction of the idols, but Florus and Laurus after severe torture were sent to the Governor of Illyria Lycionus. The latter, after vain attempts to convince the brothers to renounce Christ, ordered that they be thrown into a waterless well and to cover them with earth. After many years, during the reign of the Emperor Constantine the Great, the relics of the Holy Martyrs have been found incorrupt and were transferred to Constantinople.

Troparion, tone 4

**Faithful, let us fittingly praise the All-blessed Florus
Together with the most honored Laurus:
The all-beautiful, divinely wise and most radiant pair
Who earnestly and openly proclaimed the uncreated Trinity to all!
Having suffered even to the shedding of your blood**

**And been crowned with the most splendid crowns, //
Entreat Christ God that He may save our souls.**

(Text: Holy Myrrh-bearing Women Monastery)

Kontakion, tone 8

**Today the whole world gloriously honors Florus and Laurus
As martyrs of devotion and divinely wise athletes of Christ.
May we receive grace and mercy through their prayers //
And be delivered from tribulations, dangers, wrath and sorrow on the day of
Judgment.**

(Text: Holy Myrrh-bearing Women Monastery)

Epistle: Eph. 6:10-17; sel. 23_. **Gospel:** Luke 12:2-12; sel. 63.

Martyrs Hermes, Serapion, and Polyenus

Born Romans, for their steadfast confession of Christ they were thrown into a stinking prison and being dragged over stones and in the rapids of a river they then died in the Second Century.

Martyrs Hilarion, Dionysius and Hermippus, Hieromartyr Emilian and those with them (up to 1000), suffered for Christ during the reign of Diocletian in Italy, about the year 300. St. Emilian was born in Armenia, and was grounded in the Christian faith and morals by the Monk Hilarion and together with him went to preach the gospel in Italy. Two brothers Dionysius and Hermippus also went together with them. St. Emilian was soon elected for his sacred life as the Bishop of Treves. Pagan priests, being indignant at him for the conversion of many pagans to Christianity, turned him over into the hands of the torturers who beheaded him. His companions with many faithful Christians also received the same martyr's crown.

The Holy Patriarch of Constantinople John and George.

John the 5th was the patriarch from 669 till 674, and George the 1st was the patriarch from 678 up to 68_. Both served during the reign of the Emperor Constantine Pogonatus.

Ven. Barnabas and his nephew Sophronius († 412)

They were born Athenians and were saved on Mount Mela near Trebizond in Asia Minor.

Ven. Christopher, rector of the monastery on Mount Mela

He was born in the Trebizond village of Gazara and was tonsured during the reign of Constantine (641-668).

The Hodigitria Icon of the Mother of God

It was discovered in the Mela or Sumel Monastery near Trebizond. According to tradition the Holy Evangelist Luke wrote the icon.

*S. V. Bulgakov, **Handbook for Church Servers**, 2nd ed., 1274 pp (Kharkov, 1900) pp 0289-90
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