

## March 18 - St. Cyril of Jerusalem (315?-386)

Problems in the Church today are minor compared with the reverberations of the Arian heresy that denied the divinity of Christ. Cyril was to be caught up in the controversy, accused (later) of Arianism by St. Jerome, and ultimately vindicated both by the men of his own time and by being declared a Doctor of the Church in 1822. Raised in Jerusalem, well-educated, especially in the Scriptures, he was ordained a priest by the bishop of Jerusalem and given the task of catechizing during Lent those preparing for Baptism and during the Easter season the newly baptized. His *Catecheses* remain valuable as examples of the ritual and theology of the Church in the mid-fourth century.

There are conflicting reports about the circumstances of his becoming bishop of Jerusalem. It is certain that he was validly consecrated by bishops of the province. Since one of them was an Arian, it may have been expected that his "co-operation" would follow. Conflict soon rose between Cyril and Acacius, bishop of the rival nearby see of Caesarea. Cyril was summoned to a council, accused of insubordination and of selling Church property to relieve the poor. Probably, however, a theological difference was also involved. He was condemned, driven from Jerusalem, and later vindicated. Half his episcopate was spent in exile (his first experience was repeated twice). He finally returned to find Jerusalem torn with heresy and schism, and wracked with crime. Even St. Gregory of Nyssa, sent to help, left in despair.

They both went to the (second ecumenical) Council of Constantinople, where the amended form of the Nicene Creed was promulgated. Cyril accepted the word *consubstantial* (that is, of Christ and the Father). Some said it was an act of repentance, but the bishops of the Council praised him as a champion of orthodoxy against the Arians. Though not friendly with the greatest defender of orthodoxy against the Arians, Cyril may be counted among those whom Athanasius called "brothers, who mean what we mean, and differ only about the word [*consubstantial*]."

MARCH 2022

## Prayer from Taizé

The exchange with God becomes real for us in prayer: by his Holy Spirit, God comes to dwell within us. By his word and by the sacraments, Christ gives himself to us. In return, we can surrender everything to him.

## Prayers of Intercession for our parish

- Let us pray that as a community, we engage together in the Synodal process, listening to the Holy Spirit and to each other with humility and love.
- Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will be at work in us during the Synodal Process so that we may be a community and a people of grace.
- Let us pray that many of us will make the time to sign up for a small group and, with open hearts, take part in the 'Seriously, God?' Lenten Spiritual Campaign

## Some tweets by Pope Francis

- Life is a gift, and when it is long it is a privilege. The "wealth of many years" is a wealth in terms of the persons themselves, their experience and history.
- Being poor in spirit is the way of achieving everything as persons and as a society: it leads toward using our resources, technologies and talents for integral human development, for the common good, social justice and the care of our common home.
- That the media put an end to the logic of post-truth, disinformation, defamation, slander and that sick attraction for scandal and that they seek to contribute to human fraternity.
- Faith is not water that extinguishes flames, it is fire that burns; it is not a tranquilliser for people under stress, it is a love story for people in love!

### March 23: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo (1538-1606)

Together with Rose of Lima, Turibius is the first known saint of the New World, serving the Lord in Peru for 26 years. Born in Spain and educated for the law, he became so brilliant a scholar that he was made professor of law at the University of Salamanca and eventually became chief judge of the Inquisition at Granada. He succeeded too well. But he was not sharp enough a lawyer to prevent a surprising sequence of events.

When the archdiocese of Lima in Peru required a new leader, Turibius was chosen to fill the post: He was the one person with the strength of character and holiness of spirit to heal the scandals that had infected that area.

He cited all the canons that forbade giving laymen ecclesiastical dignities, but he was overruled. He was ordained priest and bishop and sent to Peru, where he found colonialism at its worst. The Spanish conquerors were guilty of every sort of oppression of the native population. Abuses among the clergy were flagrant, and he devoted his energies (and suffering) to this area first.

He began the long and arduous visitation of an immense archdiocese, studying the language, staying two or three days in each place, often with neither bed nor food. He confessed every morning to his chaplain, and celebrated Mass with intense fervour. Among those to whom he gave the Sacrament of Confirmation was St. Rose of Lima, and possibly St. Martin de Porres. After 1590 he had the help of another great missionary, St. Francis Solanus.

His people, though very poor, were sensitive, dreading to accept public charity from others. Turibius solved the problem by helping them anonymously. When Turibius undertook the reform of the clergy as well as unjust officials, he naturally suffered opposition. Some tried, in human fashion, to explain God's law in such a way as to sanction their accustomed way of life. Turibius answered them in the words of Tertullian: "Christ said, 'I am the truth'; He did not say, 'I am the custom.'"

### PRAYER FOR A SLEEPLESS NIGHT

*When you lie down, you need not be afraid,  
when you rest, your sleep will be sweet.  
(Proverbs 3:24)*

Lord,  
I cannot sleep.  
Anxious thoughts about my health  
have invaded my mind  
and are firmly planted there.

Hour after annoying hour,  
they fill me with fear, worry and doubt.

Their roots go deeper  
with every disquieting second the clock ticks away,  
every irksome minute that passes.

Grant me awareness of your love,  
and let me find within it  
a calm that will dispel all anxiety.

Grant me awareness of your watchfulness,  
and let me find within it  
a sense that you will protect me  
in the hours of this night  
and always.

Grant me an awareness of your presence,  
and let me find within it  
a sense of peace that will bring sleep.

*Beverly S. Gordon*

Sometimes when we feel we have no feeling of peace, or of  
God's presence, he is more truly present than he has ever been.

*Thomas Merton*