

JULY 29, ST. MARTHA, VIRGIN

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The ways by which God leads men's souls are varied; one way may be more perfect than another, but each soul must sanctify itself in its own fashion. Grace does not do violence to nature, but perfects it; thus, although St. John tells us that Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, each of the sisters always retains her own individual character in the Gospel narrative. Mary feels more deeply, and, therefore, though she is habitually more recollected, yet she is also a woman of an eager and pleasing disposition, more courageous in her actions.

The virtues of Martha, the elder sister of Lazarus, on the other hand, are more commonplace and less exceptional. She is a good housekeeper, diligent, affectionate, and forbearing in undertaking the additional labor which Mary's differing nature puts upon her. In discharging her daily duties she looks at life chiefly from the practical side. The Savior loves her much, because, though Mary is eager to receive spiritual food from him, Martha, on the contrary, shows a mother's tender care both for Him and for His disciples, who were always received as members of the family in her home at Bethany.

Sts. Felix II, Simplicius, Faustinus, and Beatrice, Martyrs: The martyr-Pope St. Felix II governed the Church during the exile of Pope Liberius, in the middle of the Fourth Century. Simplicius and Faustinus were drowned in the Tiber, probably in 303, when the great persecution under Diocletian was at its height. Beatrice, their sister, with the aid of the priest Priscus, recovered their bodies in order to give them burial; for which offence she was strangled in prison.

INTROIT Psalms 44: 8

Dilexisti justitiam, et odisti iniquitatem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, óleo lætitiæ præ consórtibus tuis. (Ps. 44: 2) Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego ópera mea Regi. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Dilexisti justitiam, et odisti iniquitatem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, óleo lætitiæ præ consórtibus tuis.

COLLECT

Exáudi nos, Deus salutáris noster: ut, sicut de, beátæ Mathæ, Vírginis tuæ festivitáte gaudémus; ita piæ devotiónis erudiámur afféctu. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of Sts. Felix, Simplicius, Faustinus, & Beatrice)

Præsta, quæsumus, Dómine: ut, sicut pópulus cristiánus Mártyrum tuórum Felícis, Simplicii, Faustíni et Beatricis temporáli solemnitate congáudet, ita perfruátur ætérna; et, quod votis célebrat, comprehendat efféctu. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 10: 17-18; 11: 1-2

Fratres: Qui gloriátur, in Dómino gloriétur. Non enim qui seipsum comméndat, ille probátus est; sed quem Deus comméndat. Utinam sustinerétis módicum quædam insipientiæ meæ, sed et suppórtate me: æmulor enim vos Dei æmulatióne. Despóndi enim vos uni viro vírginem castam exhibére Christo.

GRADUAL Psalms 44: 5

Spécies tua, et pulchritudine tua inténde, próspere procéde, et regna. Propter veritatem, et mansuetúdinem, et justitiam: et dedúcet te mirabíliter dextera tua.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Adducéntur regi vírgines post eam: próxime ejus afferéntur tibi in lætítia. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Luke 10: 38-42

In illo témpore: Intrávit Jesus in quoddam castéllum: et múlier quædam, Martha nómine, excépit illum in domum suam: et huic erat soror nómine María, quæ étiam sedens secus pedes Dómini, audiébat verbum illius. Martha autem satagébat circa frequens ministérium: quæ stetit et ait: Dómine, non est tibi curæ, quod soror mea réliquit me solam ministráre? dic ergo illi, ut me ádjuvet. Et respóndens, dixit illi Dóminus: Martha, Martha, sollicita es et turbáris erga plúrima: porro unum est necessárium. María óptimam partem elégit, quæ non auferétur ab ea.

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 10

Filiæ regum in honóre tuo: ádstitit regina a dextris tuis in vestítu deauráto, circúmdata varietáte.

SECRET

Accépta tibi sit, Dómine, sacrátæ plebis oblátio pro tuórum honóre Sanctórum: quorum se méritis, de tribulatióne percepisse cognóscit auxiliium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of Sts. Felix, Simplicius, Faustinus, & Beatrice)

Hóstias tibi, Dómine, pro sanctórum Mártyrum tuórum Felícis, Simplicii, Faustíni et Beatricis commemoratióne deférimus: suppliciter deprecánte; ut indulgéntiam nobis páriter cónferant et salútem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Matthew 25: 4, 6

Quinque prudéntes vírgines accepérunt óleum in vasis suis cum lampádibus: média autem nocte clamor factus est: Ecce sponsus venit: exite óbviam Christo Dómino.

POSTCOMMUNION

Satiásti, Dómine, famíliam tuam munéribus sacris: ejus, quæsumus, semper interventióne nos réfove, cujus solémnia celebrámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of Sts. Felix, Simplicius, Faustinus, & Beatrice)

Præsta, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus: ut sanctórum Martyrum tuórum Felícis, Simplicii, Faustíni et Beatricis cæléstibus mýsteris celebráta solémnitas, indulgéntiam nobis tuæ propitiatiónis acquirat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Thou hast loved justice, and hated iniquity: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (Ps. 44: 2) My heart hath uttered a good word: I speak my works to the King. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Thou hast loved justice, and hated iniquity: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Harken unto us, O God, our Savior that as we rejoice in the festival of blessed Martha, Thy virgin, so we may be instructed by the affection of pious devotion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that as Thy Christian people joyfully unite in celebrating the temporal solemnity of Thy holy martyrs Felix, Simplicius, Faustinus, and Beatrice, so they may enjoy it in eternity, and may effectually attain to what they celebrate in desire. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren, he that glory, let him glory in the Lord. For not that he that commendeth himself is approved, but he whom God commendeth. Would to God you could bear with some little of my folly, but do bear with me. For I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God. For I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

With thy comeliness and thy beauty set out, proceed prosperously, and reign. Because of truth, and meekness and justice: and thy right hand shall conduct thee wonderfully.

Alleluia, alleluia. After her shall virgins be brought to the King: her neighbors shall be brought to thee with gladness. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus entered into a certain town; and a certain woman named Martha, received Him into her house: and she had a sister called Mary, who sitting also at the Lord's feet, heard His word. But Martha was busy about much serving: who stood and said, Lord, hast Thou no care that my sister hath left me alone to serve? Speak to her therefore, that she help me. And the Lord answering, said to her: Martha, Martha, thou art careful, and art troubled about many things: but one thing is necessary. Mary hath chosen the best part, which shall not be taken away from her.

The daughters of kings in thy glory: the queen stood on thy right hand in gilded clothing, surrounded with variety.

May the offering of Thy consecrated people be accepted by Thee, O Lord, in honor of Thy saints, by whose merits it knoweth that it hath received aid in time of trouble. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

We bring Thee sacrifices, O Lord, for the commemoration of Thy holy martyrs, Felix, Simplicius, Faustinus, and Beatrice, humbly praying that they may obtain for us at once forgiveness and salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

The five wise virgins took oil in their vessels with the lamps: and at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh: go ye forth to meet Christ our Lord.

Thou hast filled Thy household, O Lord, with sacred gifts; ever comfort us, we beseech Thee, through her intercession whose festival we celebrate. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, that the solemnity of Thy holy martyrs, Felix, Simplicius, Faustinus, and Beatrice, celebrated with the sacred mysteries, may acquire for us the grant of Thy forgiveness of our sins. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.