



CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE

Cyprian of Carthage

d. 258

13 September

Bishop and Martyr

- ✠ Wealthy, well-educated pagan, converted in 40's
- ✠ Chosen bishop in controversial selection
- ✠ Fled the Decian persecutions 249-50
- ✠ Argued against laxity in re-admitting *libellatici* in controversy with Novatus and Felicissimus
- ✠ Subsequently defended absolution against rigorist position of Novatian (whom Novatus joined!)
- ✠ Defended re-baptism of those baptized by heretics and schismatics (losing position)
- ✠ Wrote *On the Unity of the Catholic Church*
- ✠ Martyred in persecution under Valerian

... [T]he house of God is one, and there can be no salvation to any except in the Church.

Epistle LXI

He can no longer have God for his father, who has not the Church for his mother.

On the Unity of the Catholic Church vi