Cyprian of Carthage

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