



POLYCARP OF SMYRNA

Polycarp of Smyrna

d. 156

23 February

Bishop and Martyr

- ✠ Bishop of Smyrna, correspondent of Ignatius
- ✠ Denounced Marcion as “Son of Satan”
- ✠ Told that John fled baths where he saw Cerinthus
- ✠ Negotiated with Anicetus of Rome relative to Quartodeciman observance of Easter
- ✠ Rounded up as leader of “the atheists”
- ✠ Supposedly flames refused him; when speared, his blood extinguished the flames

Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?

Martyrdom of Polycarp

Lord God Almighty, Father of your blessed and beloved child Jesus Christ, through whom we have received knowledge of you, God of angels and hosts and all creation, and of the whole race of the upright who live in your presence: I bless you that you have thought me worthy of this day and hour, to be numbered among the martyrs and share in the cup of Christ, for resurrection to eternal life, for soul and body in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit.

Martyrdom of Polycarp