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Holy Martyrs Agathopodus and Theodulus & Venerable Mark of Trache (April 5)

Ξένες γλώσσες / In English / Άγ. Νικόλαος (Βελιμίροβιτς) Επίσκοπος Αχρίδος / Άγιοι - Πατέρες - Γέροντες / Συναξαριακές Μορφές



Saints Agathopus and Theodoulos

1. THE HOLY MARTYRS AGATHOPODUS AND THEODULUS

Agathopodus was a deacon and Theodulus was a lector in the church at Thessalonica. Agathopodus was adorned with the greying of age and Theodulus with youthful understanding and chastity. At the time of Diocletian's pursuit of Christians these two were summoned to court. They responded with rejoicing and holding each other by the hand, they walked along crying out: "We are Christians!" All the advice of the judges that they deny Christ and worship idols, remained in vain. After an extended imprisonment and hunger they were sentenced to death by drowning in the sea. Their hands were bound behind their backs, a heavy stone was hung around their necks and they were led out to be drowned. When they first wanted to toss Agathopodus into the deep, he cried out: "Behold, by this second

baptism we are washed of all our sins and in purity do we depart to Christ Jesus." Shortly afterward, the sea tossed their drowned bodies upon the shore and Christians buried their bodies with honors. St. Theodulus appeared to his acquaintances as a bright angel in glistening attire and ordered them to distribute all of his remaining estate to the poor. These glorious and wonderful soldiers of Christ suffered honorably during the reign of Diocletian and the Thessalonican Prince Faustinus in the year 303 A.D.

2. THE VENERABLE MARK OF TRACHE

He is also called "Mark the Athenian" because Athens was the place of his birth. His parents died after he completed his higher education in Athens. He thought to himself that death, even for himself, was unavoidable and that one should sufficiently prepare beforehand for that honorable departure from this world. Distributing all of his possessions to the poor, he sat on a plank in the sea and with a tenacious faith in God's help, prayed that God direct him wherever He wills. God, in His Providence, protected him and brought him to Lybia (or Ethiopia) to a mountain called Trache. Mark lived an (περισσότερα...)