

make pilgrimages to this tomb, and St. Gregory the Great ordered parties in doubtful suits at law to be sworn before it. Pope Honorius built a church under his name in Rome about the year 630. It occurs in all Martyrologies, and the high veneration which the church paid early to his memory is a sufficient testimony of his eminent sanctity and apostolic spirit.

The virtue of the saints was true and heroic, because humble, and proof against all trials. That of the heathen philosophers was lame, and generally false and counterfeit, whence Tertullian calls the latter, Traders in fame. "Where is now the similitude," says he, "between a philosopher and a Christian? A disciple of Greece and of heaven? A trader in fame, and a saver of souls? Between a man of words and a man of works?" And St. Jerome writes: "A philosopher is an animal of fame, one who basely drudges for the breath of the people." Lactantius severely rallies Cicero, because, though he was very sensible of the vanity of the worship then established, yet he would not have that truth told the people for fear of unhinging the religion of the state. "Now what is to be done with a man," says our Christian philosopher, "who knows himself in an error, yet willfully dashes upon a rock, that the people may do so too? Who makes no use of his wisdom for the regulation of his life, but entangles himself to ensnare others, whom as the wiser person, he was obliged to rescue from error. But O, Cicero, if you have any regard for virtue, attempt rather to deliver the people out of ignorance. It is a noble enterprise, and worthy all your powers of eloquence. Never fear but your oratory will hold out in so good a cause, which never ailed you in the defense of so many bad ones. But Socrates' prison is the thing you dread; and therefore truth must want a patron; but certainly, as a wise man, you ought to despise death in competition with truth; and you had fallen much more honorably by speaking well of truth, than for speaking ill of Antony; nor will you ever rise to that height of glory by your Philippics, as you would have done by laboring to undeceive the world, and dispute the people into their senses." The philosophers did not love truth well enough to suffer for it. Plato dissembled for fear of Socrates' hemlock; but the Christian religion raised its professors above all considerations present, for the joy that was set before them.

** (excerpted from: www.bartleby.com)

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Saint Apollinaris Of Ravenna

Feast Day: July 23rd



**A soldier said to Apollinaris...
*"Stranger, if the God you preach
is as powerful as you say,
beg Him to give sight to my son,
and I will believe in Him."***

The miracle was instantaneous.

SAINT APOLLINARIS
FIRST BISHOP OF RAVENNA AND MARTYR
(+79)

*When Saint Peter, setting out for Rome, left Antioch after seven years as its spiritual Head, he took with him several of the faithful of that city, among them Apollinaris, a disciple of Jesus Christ. He consecrated him bishop a few years later and sent him to Ravenna as its first bishop.

His first miracle was on behalf of the blind son of a soldier who gave him hospitality when he first arrived in the city of Ravenna. When the apostle told him of the God he had come to preach and invited him to abandon the cult of idols, the soldier replied: "Stranger, if the God you preach is as powerful as you say, beg Him to give sight to my son, and I will believe in Him." The Saint had the child brought and made the sign of the cross on his eyes as he prayed. The miracle was instantaneous, to the great amazement of all, and news of it spread rapidly. A day or so later, a military tribune sent for him to cure his wife from a long illness, which again he did. The house of the tribune became a center of apostolic action, and several persons sent their children to the Saint to instruct them there. Little by little a flourishing Christian assembly was formed, and priests and deacons were ordained. The Saint lived in community with the two priests and two deacons.

The idolatrous priests aroused the people against him, as we see the enemies of Saint Paul do in the *Acts of the Apostles*. He was left half-dead on the seashore, after being severely beaten, but was cared for by the Christians and recovered rapidly. A young girl whom he cured after having her father promise to allow her full liberty to follow Christ, consecrated her virginity to God. It was after this that, in the time of Vespasian, he was arrested and interrogated and again

flogged, stretched on the rack and plunged into boiling oil. Alive still, he was exiled to Illyria, east of the Adriatic Sea.

He remained three years in that country, having survived a shipwreck with only a few persons whom he converted. Then he evangelized the various districts, with the aid of his converts. When an idol ceased to speak during his sojourn in one of these regions, the pagans again beat him and threw him and his companions on a ship which took them back to Italy. Soon imprisoned, he escaped but was seized again and for the last time subjected to a flogging. He died on July 23rd of the year 79. His body lay first at Classis, four miles from Ravenna, and a Church was built over his tomb; later the relics were returned to Ravenna. Pope Honorius had a church built to honor the name of Apollinaris in Rome, about the year 630. From the beginning the Church has held his memory in high veneration.

*(excerpted from: www.magnificat.ca)

MORE ON SAINT APOLLINARIS

**St. Bede, in his true Martyrology, says that St. Apollinaris sat twenty years, and was crowned with Martyrdom in the reign of Vespasian. His acts say that he was a disciple of St. Peter, and made by him bishop of Ravenna. St. Peter Chrysologus, the most illustrious among his successors, has left us a sermon in honor of our saint, in which he often styles him a martyr; but adds, that though he frequently spilt portions of his blood for the faith, and ardently desired to lay down his life for Christ, yet God preserved him a long time to his church, and did not suffer the persecutors to take away his life. So he seems to have only been a martyr by the torments he endured for Christ, which he survived at least some days... In the year 549 his relics were removed into a more secret vault in the same Church, as an inscription still extant there testifies. St. Fortunatus exhorted his friends to