

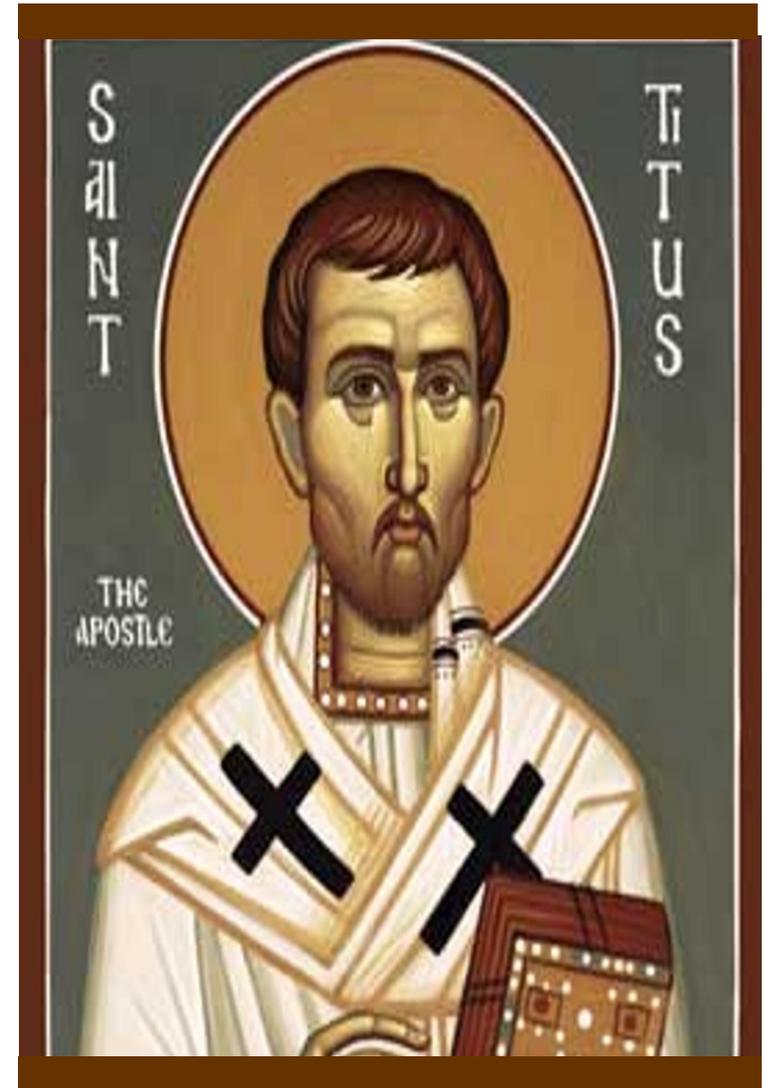
On the morning of May 15, 1966, hundreds of devout Christians gathered at the port of Heraklion to honor the arrival of the holy relics. It was an extraordinary experience for all Christians. The church celebrated the event with a stately joint literature at the Cathedral. The memorable Archbishop of Crete, Eugenious, eulogized the Saint's skull as a blessing for the Church of Crete.

In conclusion, St. Titus invites us all to become the disciples of true teachers and with the grace of God turn fervent missionaries in our land. In this day and age heresies and false religions thrive. Their teachings have a charming effect on Cretans, particularly on the young. We only need to assimilate the teachings of the apostle Titus and follow his example in order to avert the danger of falsehood.

\* (excerpted by: [www.orthodoxchristian.info](http://www.orthodoxchristian.info); [www.catholic-saints.info](http://www.catholic-saints.info); [//jesus-passion.com](http://jesus-passion.com))

## Saint Titus

**Feast Day: February 6**



**Companion to Saint Paul the Apostle**

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## Saint Titus

\*According to tradition and the information of the New Testament (2 Corinthians, Galatians, 2 Timothy, Titus and other Epistles of St. Paul), the venerable Bishop Titus was of Greek origin. His parents were nobles from Crete. Soon Titus who converted from heathenism, became a disciple of St. Paul, one of the chosen companions of the Apostle in his journey to the Council of Jerusalem to attend the proceedings of the Apostolic Synod. Titus gained valuable experience from this Synod. Soon afterwards, about 55 – 56 A.D., while Paul was preaching at Ephesus, Titus was sent to Corinth to assist the local church with matters of utmost importance. Having fulfilled his task, he left for Philippi where he met Paul. Titus gave him a full account of his journey to Corinth. In the fall of the same year, Titus was dispatched to Corinth once more to conclude his teaching. The apostle Paul was very proud of his pupil and refers to Titus as “partner” and “fellow helper” in his missionary work.

From the second epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians we gain and insight into Titus’ character, and understand the strong affection which Paul bore him. Titus had been commissioned to carry out a twofold office, needing much firmness, discretion, and charity. The Apostle Paul entrusted him with the organization of the Cretan Church and appointed him Bishop. Paul was installed (took office) in Crete between 62 – 64 A.D., that is, following the release of St. Paul from Rome, where he had been brought to stand trial as a reactionist. Titus was to be the bearer of a severe rebuke to the Corinthians, who were giving scandal and wavering in their faith; and at the same time he was to put their charity to a further test by calling upon them for abundant alms for the church at Jerusalem.

Although the Gospel had already been delivered to Crete by Cretan missionaries, certain schismatic matters needed immediate attention. In addition, the organization of the Church was deficient. Christian communities suffered internal conflicts on account of false teaching. Thus, the task of Titus was very delicate and difficult. In spite of this, Titus managed to resolve the conflict and restore peace among the contending parties. As an instrument of divine justice, Titus distinguished himself as a paragon of piety and an eradicator of

impiety. The influence of St. Titus was such that a great many heretics and idolaters revoked their heresies or abandoned their idols.

The mission of Titus to Corinth shows us how well the disciple caught the spirit of his master St. Paul. Titus knew how to be firm and to inspire respect. The Corinthians, we are told, “received him with fear and trembling.” He was patient and painstaking. St. Paul “gave thanks to God who had put such carefulness for them in the heart of Titus.” These gifts were enhanced by a quickness to detect and call out all that was good in others, and by a joyousness which overflowed upon the spirit of St. Paul himself, who “abundantly rejoiced in the joy of Titus.”

According to legend, St. Titus died at Gortyna of Crete at the age of 94, after many years of service to God. During the fourth century the Church declared Titus a saint, and he is also recognized as patron of Crete.

During the sixth century a wooden roof Basilica was built in his name at the place where his holy relics have been deposited. However, when Crete was conquered by the Saracens (Arabs) in 824 A.D., the Basilica was demolished and since then it remains in ruins. The Saint’ skull was salvaged by devote Christians. Following the recovery of Crete by the Byzantine general Nicephoros Phokas in 961 A.D., a stately Metropolitan church was erected in the town of Heraklion (Chandax) where all his holy relics were kept. When the town of Heraklion fell to the Turks in 1669, the Saints skull was transported to Venice and deposited in the Basilica of St. Mark. The skull of the saint was returned to Crete following a series of negotiations with the representatives of the Western church which lasted from 1957 to 1966.