

## PRAYER TO SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN

### ENGLISH VERSION...

Oh glorious martyrs of Christ, Saints Cosmas and Damian,  
you gave your lives for the love of God, benefiting your fellow man,  
and crowning your martyrdom with an open and loyal profession of your faith.

You taught us to love God above all things,  
and to love our fellow man as ourselves,  
professing always, and without fear, the religion of Jesus.

Augmenting amongst the faithful populace many miracles,  
you are glorious indeed.

Through your intercession, which brings about  
deliverance of these miracles, we pray to you for your aid in all things.  
May your patronage never be far from us in the illness of our body and soul.

O great protectors, Saints Cosmas and Damian, assist us with your love and  
free us from all evils. AMEN

### Italian Version...

O Divini Dottori che offriste il Vostro martirio  
per la Santa causa del cristianesimo;  
Comprotettori del lontano nostro suolo natio,  
anche qui, in lontane sponde, noi vi veneriamo  
Con lo stesso ardore e devozione. De'  
benedicete e proteggete L'Associazione che  
porta tanto devotamente i Vostri Nomi Gloriosi;  
riguardate le nostre famiglie e l'intera cristiana  
umanità e soprattutto, vi chiediamo di  
proteggere i nostri figli, allontanandoli dai vizi  
di questa turlupinata e pericolosa Era.  
Infondete loro il Vostro Santo martirio e la  
nostra Santa Christiana Fede, per indi,  
meritarci tutti, la gloria del Santo Paradiso, Così Sia

Nostri grandi protettori, Santi Cosma & Damiano,  
assisteteci con amore e liberarticci d'ogni male.

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## *Saints Cosmas and Damian*

### *The Healing Saints*

Feast Day: September 26



**Saints Cosmas and Damian,  
please heal all those in need of healing,  
and protect our children. Amen.**

## ***Saints Cosmas and Damian***

\*The twin brothers Saint Cosmas and Damian were physicians and early Christian martyrs born in Cilicia, part of today's Turkey. They practiced their profession in the seaport of Aegea (modern Ayas, in the Gulf of Iskenderun), then in the Roman province of Syria. Accepting no payment for their services led to them being named Unmercenary; it has been said that, by this, they attracted many to the Christian faith.

### **LIVES**

During the persecution under Diocletian, Cosmas and Damian were arrested by order of the Prefect of Cilicia, one Lysias who is otherwise unknown, who ordered them under torture to recant. However, according to legend they stayed true to their faith, enduring being hung on a cross, stoned and shot by arrows and finally suffered execution by beheading. Anthimus, Leontius and Euprepus, their younger brothers, who were inseparable from them throughout life, shared in their martyrdom.

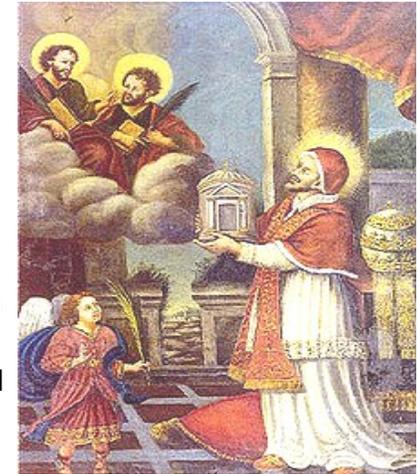
Their most famous miraculous exploit was the grafting of a leg from a recently deceased Ethiopian to replace a patient's ulcerated leg, and was the subject of many paintings and illuminations.



### **VENERATION**

As early as the 4th century, churches dedicated to the twin saints were established at Jerusalem, in Egypt and in Mesopotamia. Theodoret records the division of their relics. Their relics deemed miraculous, were buried in the city of Cyrrus in Syria. Churches were built in their honor by Archbishop Proclus and by Emperor Justinian I (527-565), who sumptuously restored the city of Cyrus and dedicated it to the twins, but brought their relics to Constantinople; there, following his cure, ascribed to the intercession of Cosmas and Damian,

Justinian, in gratitude also built and adorned their church at Constantinople, and it became a celebrated place of pilgrimage. At Rome Pope Felix IV (526-530) rededicated the Library of Peace (*Bibliotheca Pacis*) as a basilica of Santi Cosma e Damiano in the Forum of Vespasian in their honor. The church is much rebuilt but still famed for its sixth-century mosaics illustrating the saints.



Pope Felix IV presents Sts. Cosmas and Damian with the basilica he rededicated to them.

What are said to be their skulls are venerated in the convent of the Poor Clares in Madrid, where they have been since 1581, the gift of Maria, daughter of Emperor Charles V. They had previously been removed from Rome to Bremen in the tenth century, and thence to Bamberg.

The martyr twins are invoked in the Canon of the Mass in the prayer known as the *Communicantes* (from the first Latin word of the prayer)...

Their feast day in the Roman Catholic calendar of saints, which had been on September 27, was moved in 1969 to September 26, because September 27 is the *dies natalis* ("day of birth" into Heaven) of Saint Vincent de Paul, now more widely venerated in the Latin Church, but some traditionalist Catholics continue to observe the pre- 1970 calendar.

Saints Cosmas and Damian are regarded as the patrons of physicians and surgeons and are sometimes represented with medical emblems.

In Brazil, the twin saints are regarded as protectors of children.

\* (excerpted from: <http://en.wikipedia.org>)