

tery on his paternal estate, not far from the harbour, and gathered together thirty monks; being thus the first to introduce the monastic life into the island.

Nothing could be more placid or more humble than his behaviour; while he surpassed everyone in prudence, gravity, kindness, and unruffled tranquillity of mind. He often spent whole nights in the contemplation of heavenly things, only sitting down for a short time when overpowered by the necessity of sleep. He was most zealous in observing silence; and when it was necessary to speak, the subjects of his conversation were the contempt of the world and the imitation of Christ. His fasts were most severe, and he abstained all the year round from flesh and every kind of milk-meat. In Lent he took only bread and water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays; the rest of the week he passed without any food. He never drank wine, and always wore a hairshirt. So numerous and so remarkable were the miracles he worked, that the sick came to him in crowds to be cured, not only from the neighbourhood, but also from Etruria and Africa. But Placid, in his great humility, worked all his miracles in the name of St. Benedict, attributing them to his merits.

His holy example and the wonders he wrought caused the Christian faith to spread rapidly. In the fifth year after his arrival in Sicily, the Saracens made a sudden incursion, and seized upon Placid and his thirty monks while they were singing the night Office in the church. At the same time were taken Euty chius and Victorinus, Placid's brothers, and his sister the virgin Flavia, who had all come from Rome to visit him; and also Donatus, Faustus, and the deacon Fir-

matus. Donatus was beheaded on the spot. The rest were taken before Manucha, the chief of the pirates; and as they firmly refused to adore his idols, they were beaten with rods, and cast, bound hand and foot, into prison, without food. Every day they were beaten afresh, but God supported them. After many days, they were again led before the tyrant; and as they still stood firm in the faith, they were again repeatedly beaten, then stript of their clothes, and hung, head downwards, over thick smoke to suffocate. They were left for dead, but the next day were found alive, and miraculously healed of their wounds.

The tyrant then addressed himself to the virgin Flavia apart. But finding he could gain nothing by threats or promises, he ordered her to be stript, and hung by the feet from a high beam, insulting her meanwhile upon her nakedness. But the virgin answered: Man and woman have the same author and Creator, God; hence neither my sex, nor this nakedness which I endure for love of him will be any disadvantage to me in his eyes, who for my sake chose not only to be stript, but also to be nailed to a cross. Manucha enraged at this reply ordered her to be beaten, and tortured with the smoke, and then handed her over to be dishonoured. At the virgin's prayer, God struck all who attempted to approach her, with sudden stiffness and pain in all their limbs. The tyrant next attacked Placid, the virgin's brother, who tried to convince him of the vanity of his idols; Manucha thereupon commanded his mouth and teeth to be broken with stones, and his tongue to be cut out by the root; but the martyr spoke as clearly and easily as before. The barba-

rian grew more furious at this miracle, and commanded that Placid, with his sister and brethren should be crushed under an enormous weight of anchors and millstones; but even this torture was powerless to hurt them. Finally, thirty-six of Placid's family, with their leader, and several others, were beheaded on the shore near Messina, and gained the palm of martyrdom on the third of the Nones of October, in the year of salvation five hundred and thirty-nine. Gordian, a monk of that monastery, who had escaped by flight, found all their bodies entire after several days, and buried them with tears. Not long afterwards the barbarians, in punishment of their crime, were swallowed up by the avenging waves of the sea.

## PROPER OF THE MASS

### Saints Placid and Companions, Martyrs

October 5

#### INTROIT Psalm 36 : 39

Salus autem justórum a Dómino: et protéctor eórum est in témpore tribulatiónis. *Ps. ibid. 1.* Noli æmulári in malignántibus: neque zeláveris faciéntes iniquitátem. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Salus autem ...

#### COLLECT

Deus, qui nos concédís sanctórum Mártyrum tuórum Plácidí et Sociórum ejus natalícia cólere: da nobis in æténa beatitúdine de eórum societáte gáudere. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum ...

#### EPISTLE Hebrews 10: 32-38

Fratres: Rememorámini prístinos dies, in quibus illumináti magnum certámen sustinuístis passiónum: et in áltero quidem oppróbriis et tribulatióibus spectáculum facti: in áltero autem sócii táliter conversántium effécti. Nam et vinctis compássi estis, et rapínam bonórum vestrórum cum gáudio suscepístis, cognoscéntes vos habere meliorem et manéntem substántiam. Nolíte itaque amittere confidéntiam vestram, quæ magnam habet remuneratióem. Patiéntia enim vobis necéssaria est: ut, voluntátem Dei faciéntes, reportétis promissionem. Adhuc enim módicum aliquántulum, qui ventúrus est, véniet, et non tardábit. Justus autem meus ex fide vivit.

But the salvation of the just is from the Lord: and He is their protection in the time of trouble. *Psalm.* Be not emulous of evil-doers: nor envy them that work iniquity. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. The salvation of the just ...

O God, Who dost permit us to celebrate the heavenly birthday of Thy holy Martyrs, Placid and his Companions: grant that we may rejoice in their fellowship in everlasting bliss. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

Brethren, call to mind the former days, wherein, being illuminated, you endured a great fight of afflictions. And on the one hand indeed, by reproaches and tribulations were made a gazing stock; and on the other, be come companions of them that were used in such sort. For you both had compassion on them that were in bands, and took with joy the being stripped of your own goods, knowing that you have a better and lasting substance. Do not therefore lose your confidence, which hath a great reward. For patience is necessary for you: that doing the will of God you may receive the promise. For yet a little and a very little while, and He that is to come, will come and will not delay. But my just man liveth by faith.

### GRADUAL Psalm 33: 18-19

Clamaverunt justī, et Dōminus exaudivit eos: et ex omnibus tribulatiōnibus eōrum liberāvit eos. Juxta est Dōminus his, qui tribulāto sunt corde: et hūmiles spiritu salvābit.

### ALLELUIA

Allelūia, allelūia. Te Mārtyrum candidātus laudat exercitus, Dōmine. Allelūia.

### GOSPEL Luke 12: 1-8

In illo tēpore: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis: Attēdite a fermēto pharisæōrum, quod est hypōcrisis. Nihil autem opērtum est, quod non revelētur: neque absconditum, quod non sciātur. Quōniam, quæ in tēnebris dixistis, in lūmine dicentur: et quod in aurem locuti estis in cubiculis, prædicābitur in tectis. Dico autem vobis amicis meis: Ne terreāmini ab his, qui occidunt corpus, et post hæc non habent ampliū quid faciānt. Ostēdam autem vobis, quem timeātis: timēte eum, qui, postquam occidit, habet potestātem mittere in gehēnnam. Ita dico vobis: hunc timeēte. Nonne quinque pāsseres vēneunt dipōndio, et unus ex illis non est in oblivione coram Deo? Sed et capilli cāpitis vestri omnes numerāri sunt. Nolite ergo timēre: multis passēribus pluris estis vos. Dico autem vobis: Omnis, quicumque confēssus fuerit me coram hominibus, et Filius hōminis confitētur illum coram Angelis Dei.

The just cried, and the Lord heard them, and delivered them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart; and He will save the humble of spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia. The white-robed army of martyrs praises Thee, O Lord. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed: nor hidden, that shall not be known. For whatsoever things you have spoken in darkness, shall be published in the light; and that which you have spoken in the ear in chambers shall be preached on the house-tops. And I say to you, My friends, be not afraid of them who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you Whom you shall fear: fear ye Him Who, after He hath killed, hath power to cast into Hell. Yea, I say to you, fear Him. Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings and not one of them is forgotten before God? Yea, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore: you are of more value than many sparrows. And I say to you, whosoever shall confess Me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God.

### OFFERTORY Wisdom 3: 1, 2, 3

Justōrum animæ in manu Dei sunt, et non tanget illos tormētum malitiæ: visi sunt oculis insipiētiū mori: illi autem sunt in pace, allelūia.

### SECRET

Mūnera tibi, Dōmine, nostræ devotiōnis offērimus: quæ et pro tuōrum tibi grata sint honōre justōrum, et nobis salutāria, te miserānte, reddantur. Per Dōminum nostrum Jesum Christum Filium tuum ...

### COMMUNION Matthew 10: 27

Quod dico vobis in tēnebris, dicite in lūmine, dicit Dōminus: et quod in aure auditis, prædicāte super tecta.

### POSTCOMMUNION

Præsta nobis, quæsumus, Dōmine: intercedētibz sanctis Mārtyribz tuis Plácido et Sōciis ejus; ut, quod ore contīgimus, pura mente capiāmus. Per Dōminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia sæcula sæculōrum.

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of malice shall not touch them: in the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, but they are in peace, alleluia.

We offer to Thee, O Lord, the gifts of our devotion: may they be pleasing to Thy saints, and through Thy mercy salutary to us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

That which I tell you in the dark, speak ye in the light; and that which you hear in the ear, preach ye upon the housetops.

Grant us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, through the intercession of Thy holy Martyrs, Placid and Companions, that what we take with the mouth, we may receive with a pure heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

### Saint Placid and Companions

Placid, a Roman by birth and son of Tertullus, belonged to the noble family of the Anicii. Offered to God while still a child, he was entrusted to St. Benedict, and made such progress in sanctity and in the monastic life, as to become one of his principal disciples. He was present when the holy father obtained from God by prayer a fountain of water in the solitude of Subiaco. While still a boy, being sent one day to draw water, he fell into the lake, but was

miraculously saved by the monk Maurus, who at the command of the holy father ran dry-shod over the water. Later on he accompanied St. Benedict to Monte Cassino. At the age of twenty-one, he was sent into Sicily, to defend, against certain covetous persons, the goods and lands which his father had given to Monte Cassino. On the way he performed so many great miracles, that he arrived at Messina with a reputation for sanctity. He built a monas-