

Zephyrinus Romanus Severo imperatore ad regendam Ecclesiam assumptus, sancivit, ut qui ordinandi essent, opportuno tempore et multis presentibus clericis et laicis, de more sacris initiarentur; doctique ac spectatae vitae homines ad id officii munus deligerentur. Decevit praeterea, ut rem divinam facienti episcopo sacerdotes omnes astarent. Idem instituit ut patriarcha, primas, metropolitanus adversus episcopum non ferant sententiam, nisi apostolica auctoritate fulti. Vixit in pontificatu annos decem et octo, dies decem et octo. Habuit ordinationes quatuor mense decembri, quibus creavit presbyteros tredecim, diaconos septem, episcopos per diversa loca tredecim. Antonino imperatore martyrio coronatus est, et sepultus via Appia prope caemeterium Callisti, septimo calendas septembris.

Zephyrinus, a Roman by birth, was chosen to govern the Church during the reign of the emperor Severus. He ordained that, according to custom, Holy Orders should be conferred on candidates at a fitting time and in presence of many both clergy and laity; and also that learned and worthy men should be chosen for that dignity. Moreover he decreed that when the bishop was offering the holy Sacrifice, he should be assisted by all the priests. He also ordained that neither patriarch, nor primate, nor metropolitan might condemn a bishop without the authority of the apostolic See. His pontificate lasted eighteen years and eighteen days. In four ordinations which he held in the month of December, he ordained thirteen priests, seven deacons, and thirteen bishops for divers places. He was crowned by martyrdom under the emperor Antoninus, and was buried on the Appian Way, near the cemetery of Callixtus, on the seventh of the Calends of September.

Victor I was the Pontiff of the Pasch; and thou also, his successor, wast devoured by the zeal of God's house, to maintain and increase the regularity, the dignity, and the splendour of the divine worship on earth. In heaven the court of the Conqueror of death gained, during thy pontificate, many noble members, such as Irenæus, Perpetua, and the countless martyrs who triumphed in the persecution of Septimus Severus. In the midst of dangerous snares thou wast the divinely assisted guardian of the truth, whom our Lord had promised to His Church. Thy fidelity was rewarded by the increasing advancement of the bride of Jesus, and by the definitive establishment of her foothold upon the world which she is to gain over wholly to her Spouse. We shall meet thee again in October, in company with Callixtus, who is now thy deacon, but will then, in his turn, be vicar of the Man-God. To-day give us thy paternal blessing; and make us ever true sons of St. Peter.

PROPER of the MASS

ST ZEPHYRINUS, Pope and Martyr

August 26

John 21: 15-17

SI DÍLIGIS me, Simon Petre, pasce agnos meos, pasce oves meas. *Ps.* Exaltábo te, Dómine, quóniam suscepísti me, nec delectásti inimícos meos super me. Gloria Patri.

Gregem tuum, Pastor aetérnae inténde: et per beátum Zephyrínum Mártýrem tuum atque Summum Pontíficem, perpétua protectióne custódi; quem totíus Ecclésiæ praestítisti esse pastórem. Per Dóminum ...

I Peter 5: 1-4, 10-11

CARISSIMI: Seniores, qui in vobis sunt, obsecro consenior et testis Christi passionum, qui et ejus, quæ in futuro revelanda est, gloriæ communicator: pascite qui in vobis est gregem Dei, providentes non coacte, sed spontaneae secundum Deum, neque turpis lucri gratia, sed voluntarie; neque ut dominantes in clericis, sed forma facti gregis ex animo. Et, cum apparuerit princeps pastorum, percipietis immarcescibilem gloriæ coronam. Deus autem omnis gratiæ, qui vocavit nos in aeternam suam gloriam in Christo Jesu, modicum passus ipse perficiet, confirmabit solidabitque. Ipsi gloria et imperium in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

INTROIT

If thou lovest Me, Simon Peter, feed My lambs; feed My sheep. *Ps.* I will extol Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast upheld me: and hast not made my enemies to rejoice over me. Glory be to the Father.

COLLECT

Eternal Shepherd, regard graciously Thy flock, and keep it with an everlasting protection, by the intercession of blessed Zephyrinus thy Martyr and Sovereign Pontiff, whom Thou hast constituted shepherd of the whole Church. Through our Lord ...

EPISTLE

Dearly beloved: the ancients therefore that are among you, I beseech, who am myself also an ancient, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ: as also a partaker of that glory which is to be revealed in time to come: feed the flock of God which is among you, taking care of it, not by constraint, but willingly, according to God: not for filthy lucre's sake, but voluntarily: neither as lording it over the clergy, but being made a pattern of the flock from the heart. And when the prince of pastors shall appear, you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory. But the God of all grace, Who hath called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little, will himself perfect you, and confirm you, and establish you. To Him be glory and empire for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 106: 30-31

EXALTENT eum in Ecclesia plebis: et in cathedra seniorum laudent eum. Confiteantur Domino misericordiae ejus: et mirabilia ejus filiis hominum.

Matthew 16: 18

ALLELÚIA, alleluía. Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificábo Ecclesiam meam. Alleluía.

Matthew 16: 13-19

IN illo tempore: Venit Jesus in partes Caesariae Philippi, et interrogabat discipulos suos, dicens: Quem dicunt homines esse Filium hominis? At illi dixerunt: Alii Joánem Baptistam, alii autem Elíam, alii vero Jeremíam, aut unum ex prophetis. Dicit illis Jesus: Vos autem quem me esse dicitis? Respondens Simon Petrus, dixit: Tu es Christus, Filius Dei vivi. Respondens autem Jesus, dixit ei: Beátus es, Simon Bar Jona: quia caro et sanguis non revelávit tibi, sed Pater meus, qui in Caelis est. Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificábo Ecclesiam meam, et portae inferi non praevalébunt adversus eam. Et tibi dabo claves regni caelorum. Et quodcúmque ligáveris super terram, erit ligátum et in caelis: et quodcúmque solveris super terram, erit solútum et in Caelis.

Jeremiah 1: 9-10

ECCE dedi verba mea in ore tuo: ecce constituí te super gentes et super regna, ut evéllas et destruas, et aedifices et plantas.

OBLÁTIS munéribus, quæsumus Dómine, Ecclesiam tuam benígnus illumina: ut, et gregis tui proficiat ubique succéssus, et grati fiant nómini tuo, te gubernánte, pastóres. Per Dominum.

GRADUAL

Let them exalt him in the church of the people: and praise him in the chair of the ancients. Let the mercies of the Lord give glory to him: and his wonderful works to the children of men.

ALLELUIA

Alleluía, alleluía. Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church. Alleluía.

GOSPEL

At that time, Jesus came into the quarters of Caesarea Philippi, and He asked His disciples, saying: Whom do men say that the Son of man is? But they said: Some, John the Baptist, and other some, Elías, and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them: But whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father Who is in Heaven: and I say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it; and to thee I will give the keys of the kingdom of Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in Heaven.

OFFERTORY

Behold I have given My words in thy mouth: lo, I have set thee this day over the nations, and over the kingdoms, to waste and to destroy, and to build and to plant.

SECRET

In Thy loving kindness, we beseech Thee, O Lord, be moved by the offering of our gifts and enlighten Thy Church: that Thy flock may prosper everywhere and the shepherds, under Thy guidance, may be rendered acceptable to Thee. Through our Lord.

COMMON PREFACE

VERE dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere: Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æterne Deus: per Christum Dominum nostrum. Per quem majestatem tuam laudant Angeli, adorant Dominationes, tremunt Potestates. Cæli, caelorumque Virtutes ac beata Seraphim socia exultatione concelebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti, jubeas, supplici confessione dicentes:

Matthew 16: 18

TU es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificábo Ecclesiam meam.

REFECTIÓNE sancta enutritam guberná, quæsumus Dómine, tuam placátus Ecclesiam: ut poténti moderatióne dirécta, et incrementa libertátis accípiat et in religiónis integritáte persistat. Per Dominum.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God: through Christ our Lord. through Whom the Angels praise Thy Majesty, Dominations worship, Powers stand in awe. The Heavens and the Heavenly hosts together with the blessed Seraphim in triumphant chorus unite to celebrate it. Together with them we entreat Thee, that Thou mayest bid our voices also to be admitted, while we say in lowly praise:

COMMUNION

Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church.

POSTCOMMUNION

Since Thy Church has been nourished by the sacred repast, govern her in Thy clemency, we beseech Thee, O Lord, so that under the guidance of Thy mighty rule she may enjoy greater freedom and abiding integrity of religion. Through our Lord.

August 26

SAINT ZEPHYRINUS

POPE AND MARTYR

ZEPHYRINUS was the first Pontiff to be buried in the celebrated crypt where the Popes of the third century came after their combat to sleep their last sleep. The catacomb which thus succeeded the Vatican cemetery in the honour of sheltering the vicars of Christ, had been opened thirty years before by the virgin martyr Cæcilia. As, when at the point of death, she had consecrated her palace into a church, so now from her tomb she caused her family burial-place to pass into the hands of the Church. This gift of the Cæcilius was the inauguration, in the very face of the pagan government, of common Church property officially recognized by the State. Zephyrinus entrusted the administration of the new cemetery to the person who ranked next to himself in the Roman Church, viz: the archdeacon Callixtus. The holy Pontiff witnessed the growth of heresy concerning the Unity of God and the Trinity of the divine Persons; without the help of the special vocabulary, which was later on to fix even the very terms of theological teaching, he knew how to silence both the Sabellians to whom the Trinity was but a name, and the precursors of Arius, who revenged themselves by reviling him.¹