

Their feast is kept on June 9. In the past they were also included in the Roman Catholic calendar of saints to be celebrated wherever the Roman rite is used, but because of the limited worldwide interest in them, it was decided in 1969 to leave to individual dioceses the decision whether to include them in their local calendars. Since they are included in the Roman Martyrology, they may be celebrated throughout the Roman Rite on days on which there is no obligatory feast. Traditional Roman Catholics continue to commemorate the feast day on June 9th.

A Bavarian tradition holds that the saints were Roman legionaries who became missionaries in the region of Chiemgau, where Primus found in a forest a fountain with curative properties. The two brothers preached the Gospel there and cured the sick by virtue of their prayers and the virtue of the source. When they returned to Italy, they were martyred under Diocletian. The fountain, known as the Fountain of Saint Primus, can still be seen at Adelholzen, an area of hot springs where a chapel constructed in 1615 can be found, dedicated to these saints, who are much venerated in the area.

Arrested, they both refused to sacrifice to the public gods. They were imprisoned and scourged. The judge Promotus, had them tortured and tried to deceive them to apostatized by offering sacrifice. When this did not work, they were beheaded at Nomentum. Saint Primus was eighty years old at the time of his death.

*(excerpted from: www.bartleby.com; www.thefullwiki.org; www.magnificat.ca)

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Saints Primus and Felicianus

Feast Day: June 9



A soul which truly loves God
regards all things of this world as nothing.

The loss of goods, the disgrace of the world, torments,
sickness, and other afflictions are bitter to the senses, but
appear light to the one who loves God.

If we cannot bear our trials with patience and silence, it is
because we love Him only in words.

Saint Primus and Felicianus

*These two martyrs were brothers, and lived in Rome for many years toward the latter part of the third century, and mutually encouraging each other in the practice of all good works. They were heirs of a family of great wealth. It was through the assiduous love of Pope Felix I that they had their happiness, when in their mature years, they were converted to the Christian faith. They suffered martyrdom about the year 297 during the Diocletian persecution. The "Martyrologium Hieronymianum" gives under June 9 the names of Primus and Felicianus who were buried at the fourteen milestone of the Via Nomentana (near Nomentum, now Mentana).

They seemed to possess nothing of their own. But for the poor, they would spend both nights and days with them and their confessors in their dungeons, or at the places of their torments and execution. Some they encouraged to perseverance, others who had fallen they raised again, and they made themselves the servants of all in Christ that all might attain to salvation through Him.

Though their zeal was most remarkable, they had escaped the dangers of many bloody persecutions, and were grown old in the heroic exercises of virtue when it pleased God to crown their labors with a glorious martyrdom. The Pagans raised so great an outcry against them, that by a joint order of Diocletian and Maximus Herculius they were both apprehended and put in chains. This must have happened in 296, soon after Maximus was associated in the empire, for the two emperors never

seemed to have met together in Rome after that year.

These princes commanded that both Primus and Felicianus be inhumanly scourged, and then sent them to Promotus at Nomentum, a town twelve miles from Rome, to be further chastised, as avowed enemies to the gods. This judge caused them to be cruelly tortured, first both together, afterwards separate from each other; and sought by various arts to cheat them into compliance, as by telling Primus that Felicianus had offered sacrifice. But the grace of God strengthened them, and they were at length both beheaded on the ninth of June.

Their names occur on this day in the ancient western calendars, and in the Sacramentary of Saint Gregory the Great. Their bodies were thrown into the fields; but taken up by the Christians, and interred near Nomentum. They appear to be the first martyrs of whom it is recorded that their bodies were subsequently reburied within the walls of Rome. In 648, Pope Theodore I translated the bones of the two saints (together with the remains of his father) to the Church of Santo Stefano Rotondo, under an altar erected in their honor where they remain. The Chapel of Saints Primo e Feliciano contains mosaics from the seventh century. The chapel was built by Pope Theodore I. One mosaic shows the martyrs Saints Primus and Felicianus flanking a jeweled cross. Other depictions of the saints can be found at Venice, in Saint Mark's Basilica (13th century) and at Palermo, Sicily, in the Cappella Palatina (12th century).