St. Cyril of Jerusalem

315–386 • Israel

Cyril was very knowledgeable, loved to write, and knew his Bible by heart. First Cyril became a deacon, then a priest, and finally was ordained bishop of Jerusalem. While Cyril was bishop, the Church was struggling against heresies, which are false teachings about the Catholic Faith. At that time, certain Church leaders taught that Jesus was not fully God and not equal to the Father, which is called the Arian heresy. Not only that, but the Roman emperor also was putting pressure on the Church to accept this false teaching about Jesus.

Three years after Cyril was ordained bishop, a sign appeared in the sky. A flashing cross made of light shone bright over the city of Jerusalem. It stretched from the place where Jesus suffered His Agony in the Garden and was betrayed and arrested, to Mount Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified. The cross shone and flashed for many hours, and everyone in the city could see it. The frightened people ran to the churches and into their homes, but they also praised God for this great sign. Bishop Cyril wrote a letter to the Roman emperor and told him about the flashing cross. He explained that the cross was a sign from God that Jesus was the Son of God and equal to the Father.

Cyril spent the rest of his life caring for the Church in Jerusalem. He suffered greatly, being sent into exile many times for defending the true Faith. He wrote about God's merciful love and wrote many lectures to teach others how to become Christians. He died a holy death after watching over his flock and teaching them the truth that Jesus is the Son of God, fully God and fully man.

St. Cyril, help me always to honor Jesus!

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