

Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr (died 258 AD)



https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=366

"The Deacon Lawrence was martyred in the year 258 under the Emperor Valerian." The Emperor had forced through the Senate the death penalty for all Christian Clergy in Rome.

After ordering the beheading of the faithful Pope Sixtus II, Emperor Valerian offered to spare the life of the young Deacon Lawrence, if he would but bring the treasures of The Church before him to allow their confiscation. To the Emperor's surprise, the Deacon agreed.

Having anticipated this terrible persecution of The Church, Deacon Lawrence saw to "the heroic dispersal of The Church's monies to the poor... and the unfortunates of Rome."

In the allowed 3 days time, the pagan Emperor received Deacon Lawrence, expecting to collect a financial windfall of gold and silver for himself and his administration. But instead, Deacon Lawrence brought before him a vast "gathering of the unfortunates of Rome, who he presented as The Church's true treasure."

The incensed Emperor ordered the good Deacon's barbaric "subsequent death on a gridiron" in flames. "Saint Augustine preached several homilies on Lawrence, The Way we came to know Love was that He [JESUS CHRIST] laid down His Life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers..."

I JOHN 3:16

Hereby perceive we The Love of GOD, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Lawrence understood this and, understanding, he acted on it... In his life, he loved CHRIST; in his death, he followed in His footsteps."* The subsequent resulting conversion of multitudes in Rome to Christianity was world changing.

While most of we the faithful of CHRIST are called to live out a "White Martyrdom" of Faith, Saint Lawrence offered up his life in CHRIST in a "Red Martyrdom. Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr, pray for us!

JOHN 12:24-26

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfOU16CZ0vM>

24 [JESUS CHRIST says,] Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

26 If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I AM, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.

*[adapted from "Feast of Saint Lawrence." The Magnificat, 8/10/2021, page 133.]