

*Robert W. Baral*Saints Cecilia and Valerian Martyrs*11/22/2021 AD*p 1*

Saints Cecilia and her husband Valerian, Virgins & Martyrs; Saint Tiburtius, brother of Saint Valerian, Martyr; Saint Maximus, soldier & Martyr (died 3rd century AD)



<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/11/22/103365-virgin-martyr-cecilia-and-the-holy-martyrs-valerian-tiburtius-an?fbclid=IwAR2HIYA3JvAcC33zljgHTuCd5hn9xIjglN5WCMKlAuQ6rFN OuLdxU24E9PM>

"A line from the 15th century... [account] of Saint Cecilia explains how she became the Western Patron [Saint] of [Christian] music. Faced with a forced marriage, despite her desire to dedicate her virginity to CHRIST, "she sang in her heart only to GOD" for protection - and received it.""

On their wedding night, Cecilia told her husband Valerian that her virginity was being guarded by an angel of GOD, and that he could only behold the angel if he was Baptized a Christian. Out of love for his wife Cecilia, rather than consummate their marriage, he was dutifully Baptized by Pope Urban of Rome. On his return to their new home together, Saint Valerian and his wife beheld the angel of GOD of great beauty together.

Offering their marital Virginity to The Lord together, they receiving crowns of red roses and white lilies upon their heads by the angel. Upon beholding the same angel of GOD, Valerian's brother Tiburtius believed and was then Baptized into The Faith.

Together the brothers gave away their wealth to the poor, cared for the infirmed and dying and buried the continued streams of Martyred Christians of their day. Enraged upon hearing of the brothers' Works of Mercy, especially for other Christian victims of his demonic bloodlust, the local pagan magistrate Almachius determined to have the brothers executed when they refused to renounce CHRIST and publicly worship the false idols of the day.

After cruel scourging, both brothers were Martyred by beheading, but not before they testified to The Faith in our Lord to the commander of the soldiers tasked with commanding the troops to carry out the executions, Saint Maximus.

After their beheading, Saint Maximus immediately publicly testified that he saw the souls of both Martyrs being carried up to Heaven, for which he was Martyred by being beaten to death. Not content with the blood of Saints Valerian and Tiburtius and Maximus, the same local despot had Saint Cecilia arrested for the "crime against the state" of refusing to deny JESUS CHRIST and publicly worship the false pagan Roman idols.

Almachius schemed to murder Saint Cecilia by suffocation in a superheated bath house. When this failed, he tasked an executioner to behead her. The soldier charged with this horrific assignment, however, was unable to end Saint Cecilia's life.

Saint Cecilia is reported to have lived on for 3 days, though mortally wounded from the blows to her neck, testifying of The Faith in MESSIAH JESUS to many, leading to hundreds of conversions, before she too also passed on to Heaven. The lessons for our own time and place, in a nation and world ruled by bloodthirsty pagans and an oppressed Church betrayed by our own corrupt Hierarchy, should not be lost on The Faithful today.

"This early Christian Martyr's song of Faith has certainly outlived the [murderous pagan] military and political power of her Roman oppressors." * Saint Cecilia's prayers in songs in her heart to GOD to miraculously preserve her Virginity, leading to the conversion of her husband, her brother-in-law, the pious brave soldier and multitudes of others, should give us encouragement thus:

First, that The Almighty always hears the prayers, cries, alms, thanksgivings and songs of His people, The faithful Church. Second, that The LORD always in some way answers us according to His Will and Purposes for Good.

Third, that the Christian Way always brings some form of crowns of White Martyrdoms, and for some Red Martyrdoms. Fourth, though the wicked might of pagan forces seem to triumph for a time, The LORD, His Word and His faithful Church - secured by The Blood of The Lamb - is always Victorious.

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/viva-cristo-rey>

St. Cecilia is the Patron Saint of Christian music. ¡Viva, CHRISTO Rey!

PSALM 9:1-11

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nt7bWnicZ7U>

In life and death, O CHRIST, our hearts sing to Thee!

1 I will praise Thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all Thy marvellous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in Thee: I will sing praise to Thy Name, O Thou Most High.

3 When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at Thy Presence.

4 For Thou hast maintained my right and my cause; Thou satest in The Throne judging right.

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In life and death, O CHRIST, our hearts sing to Thee!

5 Thou hast rebuked the heathen, Thou hast destroyed the wicked, Thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.

6 O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and Thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them.

7 But The LORD shall endure for ever: He hath prepared His Throne for judgment.

8 And He shall judge the world in righteousness, He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

In life and death, O CHRIST, our hearts sing to Thee!

9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

10 And they that know Thy Name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee.

11 Sing praises to The LORD, Which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people His doings.

*["Saint Cecilia." The Magnificat, 11/22/2021 AD. Introduction, p 315.]