



## St Cyriacus: The Youngest Egyptian Martyr

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St Cyriacus was born in 302 A.D. in Iconium, in Asia Minor. Cyriacus is a Greek word meaning, "Master." St Cyriacus was from a Christian family that feared God. His mother's name was Julietta. She was very rich and beautiful, but at the same time she followed the Church and her happiness was to help the poor. St Cyriacus father also feared God and followed the teachings of the Church. Being raised in the Christian faith, St Cyriacus is noted for saying, "I am a Christian," from the age of one year. While still very small his father departed to Heaven and left his wife as a widow with her little child, Cyriacus, to care for.



*Icon of Sts. Cyriacus and his mother, Julietta, martyrs. Coptic Church of the Holy Virgin Mary.*

When St Cyriacus was three years old, persecution towards the Christians was raging. His mother worried about him. Julietta's concern was that her son might fall in the hands of the idol worshippers and he might become like them should she perish. Julietta left everything and took St Cyriacus to another city. Each city she escaped to, she found persecution against the Christians. When she arrived at Tarsus, Julietta was recognized as a foreigner between the people.

Julietta was arrested while carrying her son, so she

felt that it was a call for martyrdom, and she put it in her heart to die for her faith. The persecutors brought her and St Cyriacus before the governor. Nearby were placed the tools used for persecution. The governor was astonished that a young and beautiful lady would come to be persecuted with an infant son. The governor asked her who she was and if she did not fear death.

Julietta told him that she was a Christian and that she did not fear death because it was the way that would lead her to live with her Lord Jesus Christ. The governor became angry with her and ordered the soldiers to take St Cyriacus and torture him. St Cyriacus was taken from

his mother and he was given to the governor. The governor was kind to him although St Cyriacus continued to say, "I am a Christian." The governor took him by his legs and threw him on the ground. St Cyriacus received a Crown of Martyrdom. He departed this earthly world on July 22, 305 A.D. Which is in the Coptic Month of Abib on the 15<sup>th</sup> day, in the year 21 A.M. He was but three years old when he died. Julietta was beheaded and she received the Crown of Martyrdom. May their blessings be with us and Glory be to God forever. Amen.