

anathema, and both appealed to an ecumenical synod. This the third, was called by the emperor Theodosius II, at Ephesus, 431. But, before John of Antioch and his bishops arrived, the synod condemned Nestorius and his doctrine of the two natures in Christ. The Antiochian bishops then formed an independent synod, and condemned Cyril; and the emperor confirmed both condemnations. Cyril succeeded in gaining over the emperor and was re-installed in his see, while Nestorius was sent back to his monastery. A reconciliation was afterwards effected between Cyril and John of Antioch; but suspicion by Cyril continued, especially at Diodorus of Tarsus and Theodorus of Mopsuestia, whom he considered the true fathers of Nestorianism. Besides his dogmatical works, Cyril wrote ten books of Apologetics against Julian. He also wrote a number of homilies.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, whose servant Cyril steadfastly proclaimed thy Son Jesus Christ to be one person, fully God and fully man; keep us, we beseech thee, constant in faith and worship; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. *(excerpted from: www.earlychurch.org.uk)

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Saint Cyril of Alexandria

Feast Day: February 9



Quote from Cyril:

***"Because the Son is God from God,
in some mysterious way he passes this honor to us."***

Believe it or not, we become God by participation,
not by nature.

Saint Cyril of Alexandria

*Cyril of Alexandria was born in Alexandria, towards the close of the fourth century, and he died in 444. After living for several years as a monk in the Nitrian Mountains, he succeeded his uncle Theophilus on the patriarchal chair of Alexandria, in 412.

Like his predecessor, he distinguished himself by his violence against any deviation from what he considered orthodox faith. He expelled the Novatians from their church, and robbed their church-treasury. He personally led the mob which drove all Jews away from Alexandria in 415. He also took part, at least indirectly, in the foul murder of Hypatia, a distinguished Neo-Platonist scholar. There is no evidence that Cyril was directly guilty, but the murderers were persons who regarded him as their leader. In short, he made a bad beginning.

Then there arose a controversy over the relation between Christ's Divinity and His Humanity. One view associated with the name of Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople. Nestorius refused to give to Mary the

prædicate (notion) theotokos (that Mary was the mother of God). Nestorius spoke of Jesus as a sinless man in whom the Spirit of God fully dwelt, suggesting that the difference between Jesus and any other good man was a matter of degree.

Cyril wrote learnedly and with great logic and conviction against the Nestorian position. He wrote a treatise (429), explaining the union of the logos (often translated as the Word in Christianity) and the human nature in Christ, and the birth of the logos by Mary. Cyril issued an encyclical letter to the Egyptian monks, warning them against Nestorianism.

The controversy between the two patriarchs soon became very excited, and Pope Celestine finally decided against Nestorius, and commissioned Cyril to excommunicate him if he did not recant within ten days. Cyril consequently convened a synod at Alexandria, and the anathema was spoken against one who refused to give to Mary the disputed prædicate. Nestorius answered with a counter-