Saint Vincent of Lerins

Our Righteous Father Vincent of Lerins, Whom the holy Church celebrates on May 24.

Saint Vincent was born in Toul in Gaul; he was the brother of Saint Lupus, Bishop of Troyes, who was a companion of Saint Germanus of Auxerre. Saint Vincent was first a soldier, then left the world to become a monk of the renowned monastery of Lerins, where he was also ordained priest. He is known for his Commonitorium, which he wrote as an aid to distinguish the true teachings of the Church from the confusions of heretics; his most memorable saying is that all Christians must follow that Faith which has been believed “everywhere, always, and by all.” He wrote the Commonitorium about 434, three years after the Third Ecumenical Council in Ephesus, which he mentions in the Commonitorium, and defends calling the holy Virgin Theotokos, “she who gave birth to God,” in opposition to the teachings of Nestorius which were condemned at the Third Council.

Without identifying by name Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Saint Vincent condemns his doctrine of grace and predestination, calling it heresy to teach of “a certain great and special and altogether personal grace of God [which is given to the predestined elect] without any effort, without any industry, even though they neither ask, nor seek, nor knock” (Commonitorium, ch. XXVI). See also Saint John Cassian, February 29; Saint John Cassian wrote his refutations before, and
Saint Vincent after, the condemnation of Nestorius at the Third Council in 431, and the death of Augustine in 430. Saint Vincent reposed in peace about the year 445.

Dismissal Hymn of Saint Vincent. Fourth Tone
Be quick to anticipate

With wisdom hast thou made plain to all the Orthodox Faith * as that which alone hath been believed and honored by all men, always and everywhere, * also showing heresy to be innovation, * groundless and unstable as a gust in a tempest. * O Vincent, thine invincible prayers shelter the Church of God.
SYNAXARION

* On this day we commemorate Saint Vincent of Lerins.

Verses

Vincent, with his famous writings, vanquished error,
And is honored by all men, everywhere, always.

* On the twenty-fourth of this month we commemorate
Our Righteous Father Symeon of the Wondrous Mountain

Verses

Symeon once lived upon earth’s Wondrous Mountain
But now dwelleth in Heaven’s All-wondrous Mountain.

On the twenty-fourth Symeon went where Angels are.

CHRIST ENTHRONED

Woodcut by
Leonid Ouspensky
Which adorns the Monastery Chapel
Courtesy Saint Gregory of Sinai Monastery
Kelseyville, California 95451