

St. Perpetua and Felicitas

St. Perpetua was a noble woman of Carthage and St. Felicitas her slave in the year 203. The two women were arrested for confessing Christianity and refusing to offer sacrifices to the Roman gods. At the time, the Emperor Severus was persecuting Christians. Felicitas was pregnant at the time of her arrest and gave birth only three days before her executing. Both were beheaded by a gladiator after being gored by a bull in a public arena in the North African city which is today's Tunis. Moments before they were killed, the two pleaded with fellow Christians to cling to the faith and for others to adopt the faith and accept suffering as the price of salvation. It is said St. Perpetua had to guide the sword of the gladiator to her throat because he was nervous and could not strike in the right place.