

St. Felix of Nola (d. ca. 250) was a native of Nola near Naples in Italy. He sold off his possessions in order to give to the poor. He was arrested and tortured for his faith during the persecution of the Roman emperor Decius. According to the legend, an angel appeared to him and led him away from the prison.



First Reading: (Heb 3:7-14) The Holy Spirit says, "Today, when you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their hearts; they have not known my ways.' As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" Take care, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.

Ps 94:6-11

R./ O that today you would listen to his voice! "Harden not your hearts."

Gospel: (Mk 1:40-45) A leper came to him beseeching him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And he sternly charged him, and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to any one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to the people." But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

REFLECTION

We live in a world that canonizes celebrities. Jesus did not want to be a celebrity. All he did was he genuinely cared for people. It was his compassion that led him to care and heal people. It is interesting to note that whenever Jesus healed people he gave strict orders to them not to tell anyone. He did not draw attention to himself but to his father. He was a reluctant celebrity.

However the people who were touched by these actions of Jesus, could not hold themselves back and they went around proclaiming his name. Do we seek popularity?

Do we seek to draw attention to ourselves rather than to God? The real celebrity is God!