



St Cornelius was elected Pope in 251 and was exiled by the emperor Gallus and died of the hardships he endured in exile. **St Cyprian** of Carthage was a close friend of Pope Cornelius, and supported him both against the anti-pope Novatian and in his views concerning the re-admittance of apostates into the Church.

First Reading: (1 Tim 4:12-16) Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Ps 110:7-10

R./ Great are the works of the Lord

Gospel: (Lk 7:36-50) One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house, and took his place at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If

this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "What is it, Teacher?" "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, to whom he forgave more." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

REFLECTION

Jesus is at the house of Simon the Pharisee. There comes a woman with an alabaster jar of costly perfume. A cursory glance at the Jewish customary practices and rituals would tell us that in the case of Jesus there was a visible omission of usual courtesies of ritual washing and anointing by his host. The action of the so called sinner woman gives Jesus an opportunity to teach a very important lesson to his host as well as to his listeners. Through the story of the money lender and the two debtors, and the action of the woman washing his feet with her tears and anointing his feet with costly perfume, Jesus emphasizes the fact that the more we place ourselves at the feet of the Lord in true repentance, the more we are forgiven. The message is very clear, **God doesn't look at our (sinful) past, but is in constant wait for a penitent sinner who returns to him, conscious of his/her sinful past.**