On the Church Year calendar, September 16 is designated as the date to commemorate **Cyprian** [AD 200 – 258], **the Bishop of Carthage** [North Africa, AD 248-258], who was martyred under the Roman Emperor Decius. As Bishop, Cyprian was confronted with the problem of Christians who had lapsed from their faith under persecution and who [later] wanted to return to the Church. The following is a portion of his writings.

"Vices and carnal sins must be trampled down, beloved brothers, and the corrupting plague of the earthly body must be trodden underfoot with spiritual vigor, lest, while we are turned back again to the conversation of the old man, we become entangled in deadly snares, even as the apostle, with foresight and wholesomeness, forewarned us and said: *"So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For it you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God"* [Romans 8:12-14]. If we are the sons of God; if we are already beginning to be His temples; if, having received the Holy Spirit, we are living holy and spiritually; if we have raised our eyes from earth to Heaven; if we have lifted our hearts, filled with God and Christ, to things Above and Divine, let us do nothing but what is worthy of God and Christ, even as the apostle arouses and exhorts us, saying: *"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are Above, Where Christ is, seated at the Right Hand of God. Set your minds of things that are Above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ Who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory"* [Colossians 3:1-4]. Let us, then, who in Baptism have both died and been buried in respect to the carnal sins of the old man, who have risen again with Christ in the heavenly regeneration, both think upon and do the things that are Christ's."