

humility, and meekness, with a love of sufferings and contempt, in which consists the sweetness of the cross.

The more we share in the suffering life of Christ, the greater share we inherit in his spirit, and in the fruit of his death. To souls mortified to their senses and disengaged from earthly things, God gives frequent foretastes of the sweetness of eternal life, and the most ardent desires of possessing him in his glory. This is the spirit of martyrdom. It entitles a Christian to a happy resurrection. It also makes known to us the bliss of the life to come. *(excerpted from: www.bartleby.com)

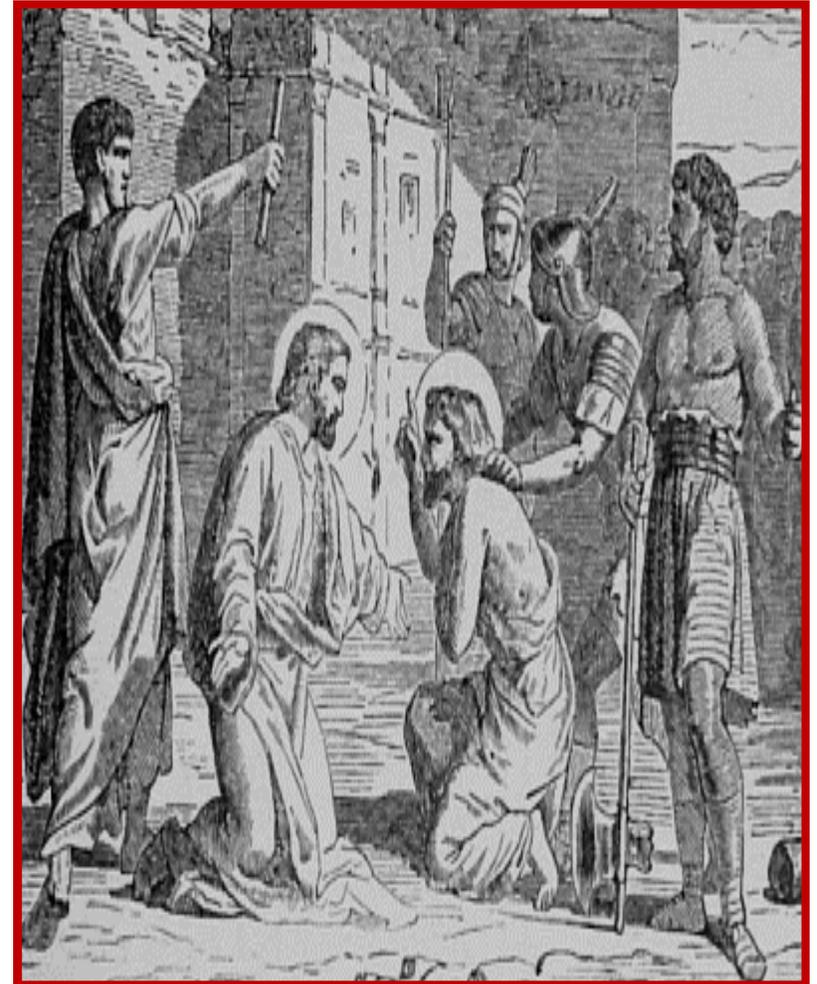
COLLECT

O God, which makest us glad with the yearly festival of blessed Faustinus and Jovita, thy holy martyrs, grant, we beseech thee, that as we do rejoice in their merits, so we may be enkindled to follow them in all virtuous and godly living, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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Saints Faustinus and Jovita

Feast Day: February 15



***Saints Faustinus and Jovita,
martyrs for Christ, pray for us.***

Saints Faustinus and Jovita

*Faustinus and Jovita were brothers, nobly born, and zealous professors of the Christian religion. Tradition says that they were great and fearless preachers in their city of Brescia (Lombardy, northern Italy) and zealous in all good works, while the bishop of that place lay concealed during the persecution. Faustinus was a priest and Jovita was a deacon.

The acts of their martyrdom seeming of doubtful authority. All we can affirm with certainty of them is, that their remarkable zeal excited the fury of the heathens against them, and procured for them a glorious death for their faith at Brescia in Lombardy, under the emperor Adrian.

The brothers were denounced to the authorities as Christians. Julian, a heathen lord, apprehended them. He ordered the two brothers to worship the sun. The two brothers replied that they worshiped only the true God, who created the sun as a light for man. At that, they were subjected to various tortures: thrown to the lions, who would not touch them; starved in prison, but received

heavenly succor.

When the emperor Adrian himself came passing through Brescia, neither his threats nor further torments could shake their constancy. Finally Adrian commanded that they be beheaded. They seemed to have suffered about the year 121.

The city of Brescia honors them as its chief patrons, and possesses their relics. A very ancient church in that city bears their name. All the martyrologies mention them.

The spirit of Christ is a spirit of martyrdom or at least of mortification and penance. It is always the spirit of the cross. The remains of the old man, of sin and of death, must be extinguished, before one can be made heavenly by putting on affections which are divine. What mortifies the senses and the flesh gives life to the spirit. Also, what weakens and subdues the body strengthens the soul. Therefore, the divine love infuses a spirit of mortification, patience, obedience,