MAY 12. STS. NEREUS, ACHILLEUS, DOMITILLA & PANCRAS, MARTYRS

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Sts. Nereus and Achilleus were servants of St. Flavia Domitilla. She was the wife of the consul Flavius Clemens, cousin of the Emperor Domitian. She died in exile on the island of Pandataria. Her granddaughter, likewise Domitilla, also died in exile on the island of Pontia. The virgin whose feast is celebrated today is the second Domitilla.
The fourteen-year-old Pancras suffered martyrdom probably in the reign of Diocletian, and was buried by the matron Ottavilla in a property belonging to her on the Via Aurelia, where the basilica dedicated to him still stands. There the station is celebrated on Low Sunday, when the neophytes, newly born in the Spirit, used to put off their white baptismal garments. In the Middle Ages it was the custom that the most solemn oaths should be taken at the tomb of the martyr Pancras, as though the simple innocence of a childhood consecrated by the blood of martyrdom would ensure a safer guarantee of their genuineness. The Romans venerated him with great fervor.

INTROIT Psalms 32: 18-20
Ecce, óculi Dómini super timéntes eum, speréntes in misericórdia ejus, allelúja: ut eripiat a morte ánimas eórum: quóniam adjútor et protéctor noster est, allelúja, allelúja. (Ps. 32: 1) Exsultáte, justi, in Dómino: rectos decet collaudátio. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Ecce, óculi Dómini super timéntes eum, speréntes in misericórdia ejus, allelúja: ut eripiat a morte ánimas eórum: quóniam adjútor et protéctor noster est, allelúja, allelúja.

Behold the eyes of the Lord are on them that fear Him, hoping in His mercy, alleluia: to deliver their souls from death; for He is our helper and protector, alleluia, alleluia. (Ps. 32: 1) Rejoice in the Lord, ye just: praise becometh the upright. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Behold the eyes of the Lord are on them that fear Him, hoping in His mercy, alleluia: to deliver their souls from death; for He is our helper and protector, alleluia, alleluia.

COLLECT
Semper nos, Dómine, Mártyrum tuórum Nérei, Achillei, Domitíllæ atque Pancrátii fóveat, quæsumus, beáta solémnitas: et tuo dignos reddat obséquio. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Let the blessed solemnity of Thy martyrs, Nereus, Achilleus, Domitilla, and Pancras, ever comfort us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and render us worthy of Thy service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

LESSON Wisdom 5: 1-5
Stabunt justi in magna constántia advérsus eos, qui se angustiavérunt, et qui abstulérunt labóres eórum. Vidéntes turbabúntur timóre horríbili, et mirabúntur in subitatióne insperátæ salútis, dicéntes intra se, pœnitentiam agéntes, et præ angústia spíritus gemêntes: Hi sunt, quos habúimus aliquándo in derísum, et in similitúdinem impropérii. Nos insensáti vitam illórum æstimabámus insániam, et finem illórum sine honóre: ecce quómodo computáti sunt inter fílios Dei, et inter Sanctos sors illórum est.

The just shall stand with great constancy against those that have afflicted them, and taken away their labors. These seeing it, shall be troubled with terrible fear, and shall be amazed at the suddenness of their unexpected salvation saying, within themselves, repenting and groaning for anguish of spirit, These are they whom we had some time in derision, and for a parable of reproach. We fools esteemed their life madness, and their end without honor. Behold, how they are numbered among the children of God, and their lot is among the saints.

GREATER ALLELUIA
Allelúja, allelúja. Hæc est vera fratérnitas, quæ vicit mundi crímina: Christum secúta est, incíta tenens regna cæléstia. Allelúja. Te Mártyrum candidátus laudat exércitus, Dómine. Allelúja.

Alleluia, alleluia. This is a true brotherhood, which hath overcome the sins of the world: it hath followed Christ, laying hold upon the heavenly kingdom. Alleluia. The white-robed army of martyrs praiseth Thee, O Lord. Alleluia.

GOSPEL John 4: 46-53
In illo témpore: Erat quidam régulus, cujus fílius infirmabátur Caphárnaum. Hic, cum audísset, quia Jesus adveníret a Judæa in Galilæam, ábiit ad eum: et rogábat eum ut descénderet et sanáret fílium ejus: incipiébat enim mori. Dixit ergo Jesus ad eum: Nisi signa, et prodígia vidéritis, non créditis. Dicit ad eum régulus: Dómine, descénde prúsquam moriátur fílius meus. Dicit ei Jesus: Vade fílius tuus vivit. Crédidit homo sermóni, quem dixit ei Jesus, et ibat. Jam autem eo descendénte, servi occurrérunt ei, et nuntiavérunt dicéntes, quia fílius ejus víveret. Interrogábat ergo horam ab eis, in qua mélius habúerit. Et dixérunt ei: Quia heri hora séptima relíquit eum febris. Cognóvit ergo pater, quia illa hora erat, in qua dixit ei Jesus: Fílius tuus vivit: et crédidit ipse, et domus ejus tota.

At that time, there was a certain ruler Whose son was sick at Capharnaum. He having heard that Jesus was come from Judæa into Galilee, went to Him, and prayed Him to come down, and heal his son; for he was at the point of death. Jesus therefore said to him: Unless you see signs and wonders, you believe not: The ruler saith to Him: Lord, come down before my son die. Jesus saith to him: Go thy way, thy son liveth. The man believed the word which Jesus said to him, and went his way. And as he was going down, his servants met him; and they brought word, saying that his son lived. He asked therefore of them the hour wherein he grew better. And they said to him: Yesterday at the seventh hour, the fever left him: The father therefore knew that it was at the same hour that Jesus said to him: Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

OFFERTORY Psalms 88: 6
Confitebúntur cæli mirabília tua, Dómine: et veritátem tuam in ecclésia sanctórum, allelúja, allelúja.

The Heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the church of the saints, alleluia, alleluia.

SECRET
Sanctórum Mártyrum tuórum, quæsumus, Dómine, Nérei, Achillei, Domitíllæ atque Pancrátii sit tibi grata conféssio: quæ et múnera nostra comméndet, et tuam nobis indulgéntiam semper impléret. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Let the confession of Thy holy martyrs, Nereus, Achilleus, Domitilla, and Pancras, be pleasing unto Thee, we beseech, O Lord, both to commend our offerings and ever to implore Thy pardon for us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

PREFACE OF THE ASCENSION
Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: per Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Qui post resurrectiónem suam ómnibus discípulis suis maniféstus appáruit, et ipsis cernéntibus est elevátus in cælum, ut nos divinitátis suæ tríbueret esse partícipes. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatiónibus cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine fine dicéntes:

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God, through Christ our Lord. Who, after His Resurrection, appeared openly to all His disciples, and, while they looked on, was taken up into heaven, that He might grant unto us to be sharers in His own divinity. And therefore with the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

COMMUNION Psalms 32: 1
Gaudéte, justi, in Dómino, allelúja: rectos decet collaudátio, allelúja.

Rejoice, ye just in the Lord, alleluia: praise becometh the upright, alleluia.

POSTCOMMUNION
Quæsumus, Dómine: ut beatórum Mártyrum tuórum Nérei, Achillei, Domitíllæ atque Pancrátii deprecatiónibus, sacraménta sancta, quæ súmpsimus, ad tuæ nobis proficiant placatiónis augméntum. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, that by the supplications of Thy blessed martyrs, Nereus, Achilleus, Domitilla, and Pancras, the holy sacraments which we have received may profit us for the increase of Thy favor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.