

gation. The holy founder died at Somascha on the 8th of February, 1537, of a contagious distemper which he had caught by attending the sick. He was beatified by Benedict XIV.; and canonized by Clement XIII. An office in his honour was appointed for the 20th of July, by a decree of the holy see published in 1769. Three years after his death, in 1540, his Congregation was declared a religious Order by Paul III., and confirmed under the rule of St. Augustine by St. Pius V., in 1571, and again by Sixtus V., in 1586. It has no houses out of Italy and the Catholic Swiss Cantons. It is divided into three provinces, of Lombardy, Venice, and Rome. The general is chosen every three years out of each province in its turn. See his life written in Latin by Aug. Turtura, Milan, 1620, 8vo., and Helyot, *Histoire des Ord. Rel.* t. 4, c. 33.

JULY XXI.

ST. PRAXEDES, VIRGIN.

SHE was daughter of Pudens, a Roman senator, and sister to St. Pudentiana, and in the days of Pope Pius I. and the emperor Antoninus Pius, edified the church of Rome by the bright lustre of her virtues. All her great riches she employed in relieving the poor and the necessities of the church. By the comfort and succours which she afforded the martyrs she endeavoured to make herself partaker of their crowns, and she lived in the assiduous exercise of prayer, watching, and fasting. She died in peace and was buried near her sister on the Salarian road. Bede and other martyrologists style her a virgin. An old *title* or parish church in Rome bearing her name is mentioned in the life of Pope Symmachus. It was repaired by Adrian I. and Paschal I. and lastly by St. Charles Borromeo, who took from it his title of cardinal.

The primitive Christians lived only for heaven, and in every step looked up to God, regardless of all lower pursuits or meaner advantages that could interfere with their great design of knowing and loving him. This constant attention to God awed them in their retirements; this gave life and wings to their devotions,

and animated them to fervour in all their actions ; this carried them through the greatest difficulties and temptations, and supported them under all troubles and afflictions.

ST. ZOTICUS, M.

BISHOP OF COMANA IN CAPPADOCIA.

He first detected, zealously confuted, and condemned the errors and impostures of the Cataphryges or Montanists with their false prophecies, as Eusebius mentions. To this triumph over heresy and imposture he added the crown of martyrdom, which he received in the persecution of Severus, about the year 204. See Eusebius, b. 5, c. 16, and the ancient Martyrologies.

ST. BARHADBESCIABAS, DEACON, M.

In the fifteenth year of the great persecution raised in Persia by king Sapor II. by the command of Sapor Tamsapor governor of Adiabene, Barhadbesciabas, the zealous deacon of the city of Arbela, was apprehended and put on the rack. Whilst he was tormented, the officers continually cried out to him : " Worship water and fire, and eat the blood of beasts, and you shall be immediately set at liberty." But the blessed deacon Barhadbesciabas showed by the cheerfulness of his countenance, that the interior joy of his happy soul overcame the torments he felt in his body. He often said to the judge, " Neither you nor your king, nor any manner of torments shall ever be able to separate me from the love of Jesus : Him alone have I served from my infancy to this old age." The tyrant at length condemned him to be beheaded, and commanded Aghæus, an apostate Christian nobleman, to be his executioner. The holy deacon stood bound waiting with joy for the happy moment which was to associate him to the angels ; but Aghæus trembled so as not to be able to give the blow. He struck, however, seven times at the martyr's neck, and not being able to sever his head from his body, run his sword into his bowels ; of which wound the holy deacon expired soon after. The judge set guards to watch the blessed corpse ; but two clerks carried it off in the night, and buried it after the Roman fashion. He suffered on the 20th day of the