

# Church Mothers

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## Perpetua

Vibia Perpetua was only 22 years old and nursing her newborn when she was arrested for being a Christian. A noblewoman, she lived in the ancient city of Carthage, where Christians came under persecution during the reign of the Emperor Septimus Severus. Perpetua was a new believer or “catechumen”, but her devotion to Christ was real. Even though her influential father begged for her to recant her faith, Perpetua stood strong alongside two slaves, Revocatus and Felicitas, as well as two free men. All of them were executed at the military games on Severus’ birthday.

These two martyrs (Perpetua and Felicitas) are commemorated on March 7. The record we have of Perpetua’s life and death is believed to be written by either her or another woman - the earliest Christian literature written by a woman.



Vibia Perpetua