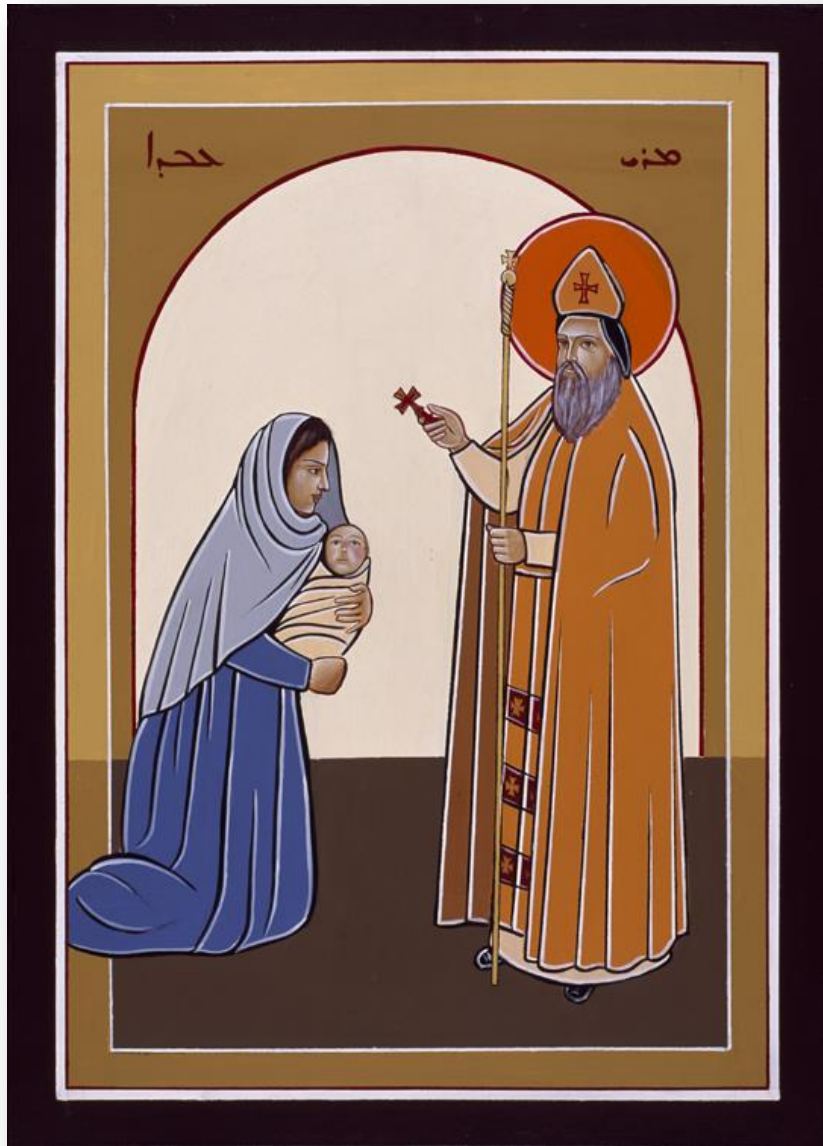


Saint Abda -- مار عبدا



St. Abda's Feast Day is celebrated on August 31.

Abda was born in Chaldor in the fourth century. His mother was Zoroastrian and she educated him in good virtues.

After Abda had received an excellent education and had grown up living a virtuous life, he was ordained a priest. He then built a monastery and a school in his home town, which he took personal care of. There he converted many to Christianity and baptized them. This led to his arrest and imprisonment. In prison, Abda endured humiliation, hunger, and pain, persevering in his faith in Jesus, until his miraculous release.

Abda became the bishop of Kaskhar, and many people followed him becoming his disciples.

Abda was falsely accused of burning down one of the pagan temples, a pyramid of Ahura Mazda. The king ordered him to rebuild it at his own expense. When Abda refused, the king ordered the destruction of churches. These events soured the relationship between the Christians and the Persian government which had previously been good, and caused a wave of persecution against the Christians in Persia. Tradition adds that Abda was one of the first martyred in the persecution.