

# **SAINT PAMBO**

## **—Commemorated July 18th—**

Saint Pambo was a monk who lived in Egypt during the 4th century. It is said concerning him that for three consecutive years he beseeched God with the following words: “Do not glorify me upon the earth.” God, nonetheless, proceeded to glorify him to such an extent that it was not possible for someone to gaze straight at his face, on account of the glorious light emanating from his face. Just as the Prophet Moses’ face shone when it was invested with the glorious brilliance originally possessed by Adam, similarly Saint Pambo’s face was as radiant as lighting.

Once, Saint Athanasios, the Patriarch of Alexandria, asked Saint Pambo to come down from the desert mountain ranges to the city of Alexandria. Saint Pambo agreed to this. At some point while walking through the city he began to weep when he came across a certain woman who was an entertainer. When the people accompanying him witnessed this, they asked him why he was crying. “For two reasons,” he replied. “First, because this woman has gone astray. And second, because I do not have as much concern to be pleasing to God as she has to be pleasing to obscene people.”

Additionally, it was known that Saint Pambo would never laugh. Spiteful of this, the demons desired to make him laugh. So, one day they tied a feather to a stick, and as they held it up in the air, they began to holler and cause a ruckus. When Saint Pambo saw this, he laughed. The demons then began to dance around cheerfully, and celebrating their victory they mocked the Saint for laughing. Saint Pambo, however, responded to their jeers: “I laughed not because you did something funny; I was actually laughing at you and how weak you are; because so many of you were required to hold up a feather.”

An Elder named Theodoros once asked Saint Pambo: “Tell me something edifying.” With great difficulty and reluctantly the saint replied: “Theodore, go and be merciful to everyone. Because mercy enables man to speak freely to God.”