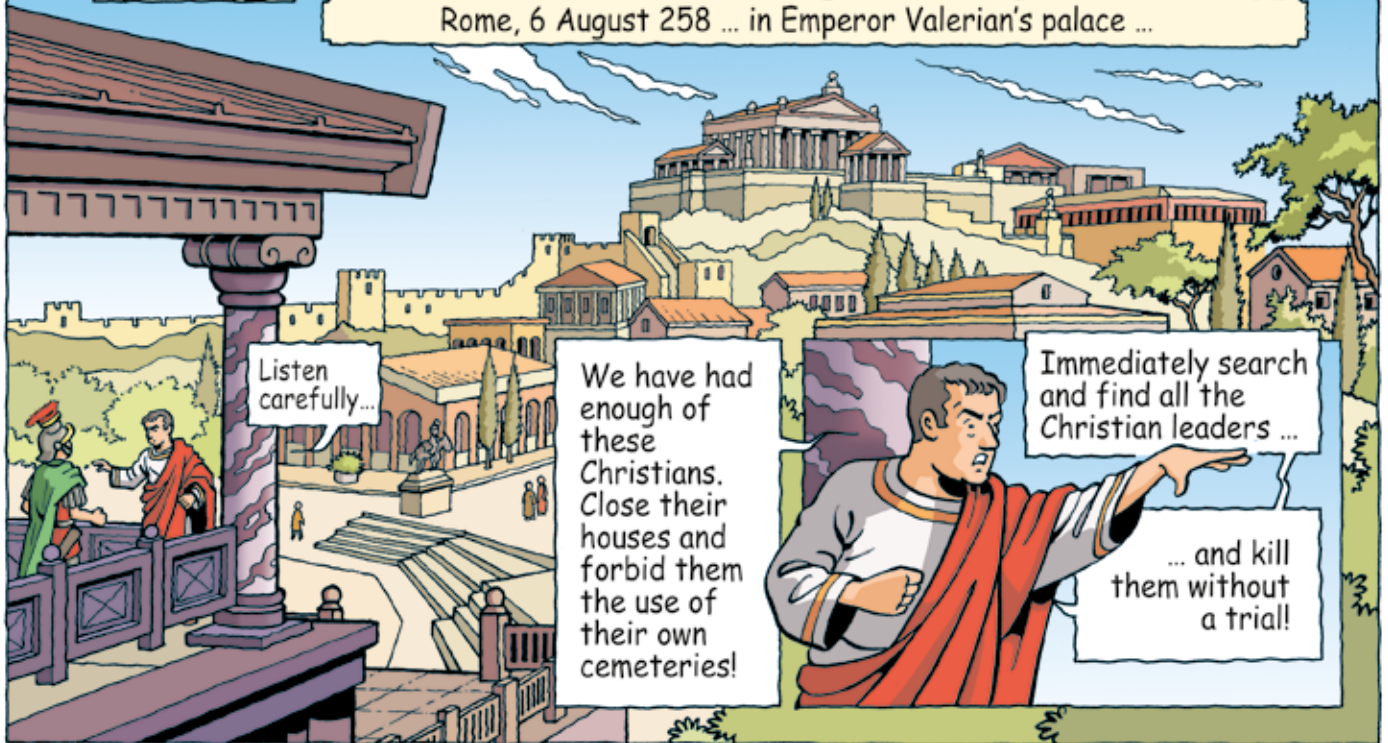




LAWRENCE's last days

Rome, 6 August 258 ... in Emperor Valerian's palace ...



Listen carefully...

We have had enough of these Christians. Close their houses and forbid them the use of their own cemeteries!

Immediately search and find all the Christian leaders ...

... and kill them without a trial!



A few hours later in the catacombs on the Via Appia, Bishop Sixtus celebrates Mass for the Christian community ...

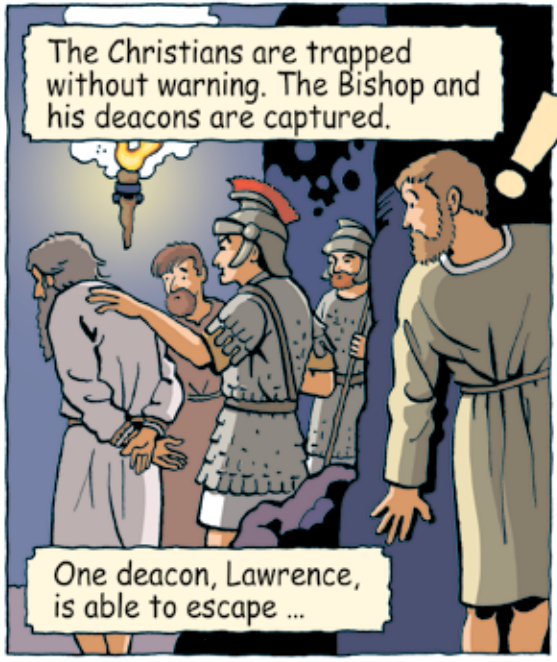
Our Father ...



... and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us ...



SOLDIERS!
QUICK, FLEE!



The Christians are trapped without warning. The Bishop and his deacons are captured.

One deacon, Lawrence, is able to escape ...

That very same day they are taken to the Calixtus' graveyard for execution. Lawrence sees the Bishop once again ...



In the meantime, take good care of the Church's treasures. ?!



Father, where are you going without your son?

My son, in three days time you will follow me ...



The Church's treasures? The Prefect should know this...



Lawrence is immediately arrested and brought to the Emperor ...

Every day you are bringing large amounts of food and other supplies to the poor people in the poorest areas of Rome.

Lawrence, as you are the Church's treasurer, I am taking you as prisoner and will torture you until you tell me where we can find the Church's assets ...



Emporer, let me free and I will gather all the treasures and bring them to the Central Forum.



I will let you go. You will bring me the treasures and offer them to our gods!



Lawrence starts immediately. He sells the precious liturgical Church objects.



Then he spends three days and three nights in Rome's poorest areas ...

See you tomorrow!

For sure!



With the proceeds, he buys food and distributes it to the needy Romans ...

And don't forget to come tomorrow morning to the Forum at 9am!

You can count on us!



At the agreed time, Lawrence stands eye to eye with the Emperor at the Central Forum.

LAWRENCE?! What is the meaning of all this?



EMPEROR VALERIANUS, here are your most valuable treasures!



THE CHURCH'S REAL TREASURES!



Emperor Valerianus condemns deacon Lawrence to martyrdom. He is laid on an iron grate where a fire burns underneath. Someone pleaded with him to please the Emperor ... Lawrence answers: "Poor man, my whole life I have been looking forward to the moment I can give my life for the good news of Jesus..."

