Euthymius the Great
A more revered ascetic born in Melitene, Armenia in 377 A.D. His biography is found in the Lives of the Monks in Palestine composed by Cyril of Scythopolis. He is responsible for the founding of 3 monasteries (the first coenobium) in the Judean desert; they are the monasteries of Theoctistus, Capernaumica and the laura (Lavra) of Euthymius. He mentored both Sabas and Theodosius and represented the ascetics at the Council of Chalcedon in 451 standing firm against the heretics. He was admired by all in the area and he led Saracens (Arabs), nomads and villagers to the faith. He was of short stature, a round face, sharp eyes and a long flowing beard. He reposed on the 20th of January 473 A.D. and his relics remained in the monastery that bore his name.

Theodosius
An ascetic born 433 A.D. in Mogarass, a village in Cappadocia near the infamous pagan center of Comana. His biography is also found in the Lives of the Monks in Palestine by Cyril of Scythopolis. At an early age, he was appointed a Reader in the Church in Comana. He arrived in Jerusalem in 451 and spent 20 yrs. at the Monastery of Calthisma. He became responsible for the coenobitic monks in the Judean desert and in about 479 A.D. founded a monastery named after him and he was known as the coenobitarch. He was a close companion of St. Savas.

Sabas
An ascetic born 439 A.D. in Mutalekka, a village in Cappadocia near its capital Caesarea, the Cathedra of St. Basil the Great. His biography is also found in the Lives of the Monks in Palestine by Cyril of Scythopolis. He was left with an uncle at the age of 5 when his parents were called to Egypt on military business. Because of an abusive situation, he left to live with another uncle at the age of 8. He left for the nearby Flavian Monastery and convinced the Abbot to allow him to enter the monastic life (for the next 30 yrs.). At an early age, he was appointed a Reader in the Church. He was released to go to Jerusalem arriving there in the winter of 456-457 later transferring to the laura (Lavra) of Euthymius. During his life, he founded at least 8 monasteries, was a close companion of St. Theodosius and was a most notable spiritual leader in Palestine. He reposed on the 5th Dec. 532 and was buried in the court yard of Mar Saba.

St. Sophronius
Born in Damascus in 580 A.D. Sophronius was well educated and taught rhetoric and philosophy was received by Libanus (acquaintance of St. Basil). Fleeing the oppression of the Persians in the company of John Moscas (who dedicated The Spiritual Meadow to him), he finally returned to Jerusalem and was elevated to Patriarch of Jerusalem. He reposed in 628 A.D. after surrendering to the Muslims.