

14 The Mystique of Martyrdom and the Pursuit of the Holy

History and Myth

surrounding the passion and death of the
martyrs

Evolution of the “martyr” Antipas (Rev. 2:13)

- Function of martyr narratives, especially after Constantine
- Stories create a narrative;
narrative creates a people

- The two roles in early Christianity never denied to women:
- Prophecy and martyrdom

The great heroines of North Africa: Perpetua and Felicitas

Episcopal Palace,
Ravenna 6th cent.

