

# St. Agatha

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c. 231–c. 251 • Sicily

St. Agatha was an early Christian virgin who died for her Faith during the Roman persecution of Christians. Like many martyrs during this time, not much is known about her, though Christians since the early years of the Faith have dearly loved her. The people of the seaport city of Catania, in Sicily, claim that St. Agatha was born there. Catania is located on the east side of the volcano, Mount Etna. The Catanians pray to St. Agatha to protect them from the volcano's eruptions.

Legend says that Agatha was very beautiful and that a senator named Quintianus wished to marry her. Agatha, however, had dedicated herself to love of Jesus alone, so she refused to marry the senator.

Quintianus was furious. He was a cruel and selfish man. If he couldn't marry Agatha, then he wanted her to suffer. He denounced her as a Christian to Roman officials and had her undergo painful torture. Agatha prayed to St. Peter for help, and he healed her of her wounds. This only made Quintianus angrier. He had her tortured again. Agatha bravely endured her suffering. She knew that it would soon be over and that Jesus would take her to heaven as a reward for her faithfulness. When she gave up her life for Him, Jesus rewarded her by making her one of the glorious saints in heaven.

St. Agatha, help me be true to my love for Jesus no matter what!