

Saint Agnes of Rome
Patroness of the Sisters of St. Agnes



Icon of St. Agnes
By Sister Mary Neff, CSA

Agnes (c. 291-303) wears purple to represent her birth into Roman nobility and red to represent her death as a martyr. Her crown also expresses these realities. When the Emperor Diocletian ordered the execution of Rome's Christians, Agnes chose death and resurrection with Christ over life without him. The scroll in her hand represents her God-given wisdom, which can look like foolishness to those without faith: "For the wisdom of this world is foolish in God's sight." (I Cor. 3: 19, NIV)

Contemporary Litany of St. Agnes

Blessed spouse of Christ,
Protect victims of domestic violence.

Victim of Divine love,
Bring an end to hatred in all its forms.

Glorious martyr of Jesus Christ,
Strengthen those who face martyrdom.

Wonderful example of fortitude,
Stand with those tempted to return to their
addictions.

Despiser of torment and death,
Give the grace of a happy death to the
terminally ill.

Conqueror of the whole world,
Bring peace to the war-torn parts of the
world.

Flower of innocence,
Protect children from sexual abuse.

Model of humility,
Gift the rich with generosity of heart.

Example of religious virtue,
Give us insight into our prejudices.

Protectress of the weak,
Help the voiceless claim their voice.

Advocate of the tempted,
Softens the hearts of those tempted toward
violence.

Special patroness of youth,
help our children resist the lure of drugs.

Great favorite of heaven,
Answer the prayers we offer with all
devotedness.

By Sister Patricia Hayes, CSA

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