

MARTYR LUCIA

DEFENDING HER HONOR AS WELL AS HER FAITH

Countless are the number of believers who suffered persecution and death for the cause of Christ. Among them was MARTYR LUCIA, who was born of wealthy and well-known Romans. The family lived in Syracuse, Sicily.

Her father died rather early, and her mother became seriously ill with an issue of blood. This presented some what of a dilemma for the young Lucia. But she selflessly took care of her ailing mother, praying as well for her restoration of health. Finally, Lucia took her ill parent to the Sicilian town of Katana, to pray at the tomb of the Martyr Agafia. The sick mother was healed after great petition. The two returned home, praising God for His mercy and aware that Christianity is the true religion.

Lucia decided then not to marry. Furthermore, she convinced her mother to sell her property and distribute it to the poor. This angered a young man whom she knew and who had wanted to take Lucia in marriage. The suitor denounced her to the governor, and she was promptly arrested for confessing the Christian faith, and brought to trial.

After suffering torments, Lucia steadfastly refused to renounce her faith in Christ, and she was martyred. This valiant woman died by the sword in the year 304. Her relics are said to repose in Venice.