

ST. MARINA

“REJOICE, MARINA, DOVE OF CHRIST . . .”

The life of the HOLY MARTYR MARINA is a wonderful example of piety, purity, and chastity. Marina’s parents were both pagans, but when her mother died giving birth to her, her father unwittingly entrusted her to the care of a devout Christian woman.

It is said that Marina matured into a beautiful woman. When she was 18 years old, Olymbrius, the imperial governor, desired to make her his wife. Not only did she refuse his advances, but Marina also boldly proclaimed that she was a Christian. Upon hearing this, the governor orderd her to offer sacrifice to the Roman gods. Marina would not compromise her faith in such a manner, and was tossed into prison.

The Martyr Marina sufferd great physical abuse while in prison. She was repeatedly whipped and burned: when she healed sufficiently, the painful process would resume. Marina was finally beheaded in 289 A.D. Before giving up her life for the Lord, she had a vision prison. A cross appeared on the wall of her cell. A white dove was perched on the top of it. Marina then heard the word; “REJOICE, MARINA, DOVE OF CHRIST AND DAUGHTER OF ZION. THE DAY OF YOUR JOY IS DRAWING NEAR.” Some of her relics are preserve and venerated in the Vatopedi Monastery on Mt. Athos, while others can be found in an ancient Romanian monastery that bears her name.