

Today is the Memorial of Saint Agatha. She was martyred in the year 251 in Sicily. She had dedicated herself to God at the age of 15, and her consecration spurned her suitor, the Roman prefect Quintianus, who then proceeded to persecute her for her faith.

Her persecution was rather graphic ... without going into too many details, she was sent to a whore house, but she stood up to the madam, and was then put in prison and tortured. She is said to have died in prison, a martyr for the faith.

In today's First Reading, we hear about King David ... who last week was shacking up with Bathsheba and then sets her husband up to be killed in battle. Today he decides to take a census. While this doesn't sound like such a bad thing, what most likely is happening is that King David doesn't trust God's promises to look after his son Solomon, and so David is in effect preparing for war.

Once again we hear his humble confession, which he makes half-a-dozen times in Scripture:

*I have sinned grievously in what I have done.
But now, LORD, forgive the guilt of your servant,
for I have been very foolish.*

While the sin of David from last week was a sin of the flesh, his sin in today's reading is a sin of the heart. His lack of trust in God - that is, the lack of trust in God of a national leader - doesn't just affect him, but rather affects all of Israel.

For ourselves, we have the benefit of the Sacraments to strengthen our Faith. Yet a lack of trust in God can have wide-ranging effects in our lives and the lives of those around us.

The famous image of the Divine Mercy, of Jesus has emblazoned across the bottom:

Jesus I trust in You.

This is not just a pleasant notion. Rather, this devotion spread to the whole Church in the 20th century because people have more and more relied on themselves and less and less on God.

As we approach this Altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for a deeper manifestation of the Supernatural Virtues in ourselves ... let us ask God to increase our Faith ... to increase our trust in Him. As we receive the Eucharist today, let that motto - *Jesus I Trust in You* - become our battle cry in facing the difficulties of life. Today ... and every day.