

trophy this body which is still capable of being loved by creatures whose admiration I despise . . ."

Her horror of being admired clung to her even after death, for when she fell, stricken down by the sword, Saint Ambrose says, that her hand still veiled her face.

If among us there are still funerals which breathe life, what an immortal life, those who assisted at the funerals of the martyrs must have inhaled !

The burial of Agnes was a feast for all the faithful of Rome.

The sweet child martyr's parents, who were Christians, gave thanks to God, but a natural sentiment prevented them from abandoning their child's grave.

Eight days after her death, she appeared to them, while they were praying, with a lamb whiter than snow, at her side.

"My dear parents," said she, "weep no more for me, as dead, but rejoice, for I inhabit the mansions of light, and in heaven I possess the Spouse I loved with all the ardour of my soul whilst I was on earth."

The Church commemorates this apparition by a special feast.

The greatest doctors of the Church have proclaimed the glories of Saint Agnes with fervor. She is one of the martyrs whom the Church brings constantly to our minds during the holy sacrifice, one of the brilliant figures she always invokes upon her sacred altars.

"Cast your eyes on us, O Agnes, and help us, for the love of Christ is languishing in our hearts. Enervated as we are by a constant seeking of our ease, by a foolish waste of what we call sentiment, we have no courage left in face of our duty. Is it not true to say that holiness is not understood ; it astonishes, it scandalizes, it is judged imprudent or extravagant. Nevertheless, O Virgin of Christ, you are there before us with your self renouncement, your heavenly ardors, your thirst for sufferings, which lead to Jesus. Pray for us, his most unworthy servants, and obtain for us a generous, fervent love, a love ever jealous of God's glory. Purify the lukewarm self complacent piety which has usurped the place of the fervor of ancient days."

LAURE CONAN.