



The Story of St. Tarsicius

"I live, now not I; but Christ lives in me." Gal. 2:20

Adapted excerpt from pages 73-74 of *Saints for Every Occasion* by Thomas J. Craughwell

Tarsicius (who was about 16 years old) had been given the important job of bringing the Blessed Sacrament to Christians in prison. Although it was a dangerous job, the Roman priests believed a boy visiting prisoners would be less dangerous than a man.

On the road outside the walls of Rome, Tarsicius met a group of people who did not believe in Christianity. They could see that he was holding something hidden under his clothes, but when they asked, "What do you have there?" Tarsicius, knowing what they wanted to do, refused to tell them or show them what he was carrying.

Someone in the crowd then got really mad and started hurting Tarsicius as he shouted, "Show us your secret!" Still he refused, and now the whole crowd was mad and they all started to bully Tarsicius so he fell to the ground, face down, still protecting the Blessed Sacrament. He held onto the Blessed Sacrament until the crowd had killed him.

After he died, many people in the mob rolled him over. They opened Tarsicius' hands and searched his clothes but they found nothing. The Blessed Sacrament, which the boy had been carrying, had disappeared!

The Christians of Rome picked up the martyr's body and buried it in a tomb that was not far from the place where he had been killed.

St. Tarsicius is the Patron Saint of First Communicants