



**Agnes** (1197-1253) was the sister of St. Clare and her first follower. When Agnes left home two weeks after Clare's departure, their family attempted to bring Agnes back by force. They tried to drag her out of the monastery, but all of a sudden her body became so heavy that several knights could not budge it.

**First Reading:** (1 Macc 4:36-37, 52-59)

Judas and his brothers, "Behold, our enemies are crushed; let us go up to cleanse the sanctuary and dedicate it." So all the army assembled and they went up to Mount Zion. Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred and forty-eighth year, they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering which they had built. At the very season and on the very day that the Gentiles had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. All the people fell on their faces and worshiped and blessed Heaven, who had prospered them. So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and offered burnt offerings with gladness; they offered a sacrifice of deliverance and praise. They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers

for the priests, and furnished them with doors. There was very great gladness among the people, and the reproach of the Gentiles was removed. Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with gladness and joy for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.

**1 Chron 29:10-12**

**R./ We praise your glorious name, O Lord.**

**Gospel:** (Lk 19:45-48) Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer'; but you have made it a den of robbers." And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people sought to destroy him; but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people hung upon his words.

**REFLECTION**

We consecrate places, persons and things to God. **Consecration involves separation and dedication.** That means when we consecrate a place first it is separated from other (worldly) uses and then it is dedicated for God's purpose. This is true of persons and things too. When a place, person or thing consecrated to God is used for profane purpose, it becomes a sacrilege. Jesus is angered when God's house which is consecrated for prayer and worship is dishonoured by using it for business. Do we use persons, places and things consecrated to God for worldly and profane purposes and bring upon ourselves the wrath of God? Have our churches become places of business? Do the consecrated persons understand that they are dedicated to God and God's purpose?