

SAINT RITA

by Mariella

Feast day - May 22

Patron saint of impossible cases, difficult marriages, and parenthood



Saint Rita was born Margherita Lotti in Roccaporena, Italy in 1381. The day after her baptism, Rita was surrounded by a swarm of white bees, which went in and out of her infant mouth without hurting her. Rather than being alarmed, her family believed she was marked to be virtuous and devoted to God.

At an early age, she begged her parents to allow her to enter a convent but was instead arranged to be married to a cruel man named Paolo Mancini. Young Rita became a wife and mother at only twelve years of age and her husband was a man of violent temper. Paolo had many enemies, but Rita's influence over him eventually led him to be a better man. Unfortunately one of Paolo's allies betrayed and killed him.

Following her husband's death, Paolo's brother, Bernardo, was angry and encouraged Rita's two sons to join the feud and avenge their father's murder.

Rita attempted to stop them, but both of her sons were determined to revenge their slain father. Rita prayed to God, asking Him to take her sons before they lost their souls to the mortal sin of murder. One year later, her prayers were answered when both of her sons fell prey to dysentery and died.

Following the deaths of her sons, Rita entered the monastery of Saint Mary Magdalene in Cascia at the age of thirty-six.

It is said that she was transported into the monastery of Saint Magdalene through levitation at night by the three patron saints she appealed to.

Rita had a great devotion to the Passion of Christ, and one day, when she was sixty-year-old, she asked, "Please let me suffer like you, Divine Saviour."

After her request, a wound appeared on her forehead, as if a thorn from Christ's crown had pierced her. It left a deep wound, which did not heal, and it caused her to suffer until the day she died.

It is said that as she neared the end of her life, Rita was bedridden from tuberculosis. It was then that she asked a cousin who had come to visit for a rose from the garden in her old home. As it was January, her cousin did not expect to find any roses, but there was a single rose in bloom, which was brought back to Rita at the convent.

She passed away four months later, on May 22, 1457.

Following her death, she was buried at the basilica of Cascia, and was later discovered to be incorrupt. Her body can be found today in the Saint Rita shrine at Cascia.

I choose St Rita because I really liked her when I visited her shrine at Penrose Park. I like that she is the saint for impossible cause and she inspires me how she deals with difficult situations with patience , love and faith in God.