



St. Rose of Lima

August 23



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1586–1617 • Peru

The baby slept in her cradle with a peaceful smile on her face. On her cheek was a delicate red mark shaped like a rose. Her mother tenderly caressed the mark on the tiny cheek, and from that day on she called her little baby Rose.

From a very early age, Rose gave signs that God had touched her soul in a special way. When little children are hurt, they usually cry. But Rose would not cry; she would offer up her pain to God. She stopped eating all fruit, meat, and candy as a sacrifice to God. When she was only five, Rose promised that she would never marry because she wanted to give herself completely to God.

Her favorite place to pray was a little shed in the garden. It was small, dark, and quiet. But there was one problem.

The shed was full of mosquitos—mosquitos that buzzed and pricked, flying to and fro! Who could concentrate in prayer among such pests? But when Rose entered, the mosquitos fell silent and let her pray. If others tried to disturb her prayer, the mosquitos drove them away, and Rose left her flying friends in peace.

Rose grew into a beautiful young woman, and her parents wished her to marry. But Rose cut off her hair and took the Dominican veil, and so her parents let her keep her vow to God.

The garden was still Rose's favorite place to pray, and she placed little crosses among the green plants and flowers. A small hut was built to replace the little shed, and there she spent her days praying, making sacrifices, and sewing fine embroidery to help support her family.

Rose never committed a mortal sin in all her life. She watched over her words so that she never said anything unkind. She wore an uncomfortable silver band on her head to remind her of Jesus' crown of thorns. Jesus appeared to Rose in visions. Her greatest joy was when Jesus called her His bride.

At the age of thirty-one, she received a vision from God showing her that she would soon die with great suffering. Rose accepted her suffering without fear and soon became terribly ill. She endured the pain peacefully and received the last sacraments with great joy before she died a holy death.

St. Rose of Lima, help me not to become distracted in prayer!