

She finally brought peace between the rivals and was able to enter the Convent of St. Mary Magdalene of the Augustinian Nuns. In religious life, Rita was noted for her holiness. She spent her days not only in prayer and contemplation, but also in service to the sick and the poor.

One day while kneeling in prayer and contemplating the passion of Jesus, she received the wound of one thorn from the crown of thorns, which she bore until her death some fifteen years later.

Devotion to St. Rita was almost nonexistent for 500 years, but with her canonization in 1900, all of that has changed. She is truly a saint for every state in life, having spent her life as a married woman, a mother, a widow, and a religious.

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Novena to Saint Rita of Cascia



Saint of the Impossible

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***The following prayer is repeated once a day
for nine consecutive days***

Glorious St. Rita, patroness of those in need,
your intercession with our Lord is most powerful.

Through the favors obtained by your prayers you
have been called Advocate of hopeless and even impossible cases.

St. Rita, humble and pure;

patient and compassionate lover of Christ Crucified!

We have confidence that everyone who has recourse to you,
will find comfort and relief.

Listen to our petitions and

show your power with God in our behalf.

Obtain our petitions for us if they are for
the greater honor of God, and for our good.

We promise, if our petitions are granted,
to make known your favor and to glorify God for his gift.

Relying on your power with the merciful Savior,
we ask of you.....

(mention your request here).

Pray for us, St. Rita.

That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father! In your infinite love and mercy You heed the prayer of your beloved servant, Rita. You graciously grant favors, through her intercession, which are considered impossible to human skill and effort. Relying on her compassionate love we ask you to assist us in our trials and difficulties. Let unbelievers know that you are the helper of the humble, the defender of the weak, and the strength of those who trust in You. We ask this through Christ, our Lord . Amen.

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History of the Devotion

Rita Lotti was born near Cascia, Italy, in the fourteenth century, the only child of her parents, Antonio and Amata. Her parents were official peacemakers in a turbulent environment of feuding families.

At an early age, Rita felt called to religious life; however, her parents arranged for her to be married to Paolo Mancini. Rita accepted this as God's will for her, and the newlyweds were soon blessed with two sons.

One day while on his way home, Paolo was killed. Rita's grief was compounded with the fear that her two sons would seek to avenge their father's death, as was the custom of the time. She began praying and fasting that God would not allow this to happen. Both sons soon fell ill and died, which Rita saw as an answer to her prayers.

Now alone in the world, Rita sought to enter religious life, feeling that God had cleared the path for her to fulfill the vocation that she had felt was hers from childhood. Yet she found that the convent she so desired to enter was reluctant to accept her due to fears that the political rivals who had killed her husband would bring violence on them.