

St. Rose of Lima (f)

- 1586 – 1617 (31 yrs.)
- Lived in Lima, Peru
- First canonized Saint of the Americas (North or South America)
- Named Isabel after her grandmother by her parents but was soon nicknamed *Rose* because her skin was so soft and pink. She also had a love for gardening.
- She grew up to become a very beautiful young woman whom many rich men wanted to marry. She, however, decided at a very young age that she would become a nun. She eventually did become a Dominican Sister (nun), which allowed her to live with her parents and support the household by selling flowers and clothing.
- While at home, she opened a free hospital in her own room to help the poor who could not afford care. Lima is a coastal city and was always at risk of pirates. Back then, in poor areas the things of most value could be found at churches or monasteries.
- Once, when pirates came to steal the treasure of the monastery, everyone in the town hid- except for Rose. She stood in front of the altar to guard it from the pirates. When the pirates entered the sanctuary, they saw Rose they backed away from her out of fear and left the city.
- She became ill from her hard life and died very young. When she died the entire country mourned her and so many people wanted to view the body that the funeral could not take place until three days after she died. Her body did not decay.
- Patron Saint of gardeners, the city of Lima and the country of Peru, resolution of family quarrels and many others.
- Feast Day: August 23rd



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