



ST. ROSE OF LIMA



St. Rose, the first canonized American saint, was born of Spanish descent in Lima, Peru. Her humble parents were Gaspar de Flores and María de Oliva. Baptized as Isabel, she was commonly known as Rose. Rose was the only name that the Archbishop of Lima, Saint Toribio, imposed upon her on her Confirmation. St. Rose chose St. Catherine of Sienna as her role model despite opposition and ridicule by her parents and friends.

St. Rose was very beautiful. On one occasion, her mother placed a crown of roses on her head when company came to visit. St. Rose did penance for what she felt was an act of vanity. Although she would oppose her parents for a just cause, she never disobeyed them. She suffered enormously because of those who didn't understand her.

Her family experienced hardship and she was forced to work all day in the orchard and sewed part of the night to help support her family. Her parents wanted her to marry, but she had made a vow of chastity living consecrated to the Lord.

Her parents eventually let her join the third Order of St. Dominic, imitating St. Catherine of Sienna. She then cloistered herself doing prayer and penance in a cabin she had built in the Orchard.

Her feast day is August 30.

FLORIDA

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