

May Holy Hero

St. Rose of Lima

Patron saint of South America

Feast Day Aug 23

By Stephanie Purcell for the Catholic Identity Committee

St. Rose of Lima is known as the first saint of the Americas. Her real name was Isabel, but because she was such a beautiful baby, everyone called her Rose. As a child, she promised her life to God alone. Many people admired Rose for her beauty, but she said, "Only beauty of the soul is worthwhile."

A rich, young man wanted to marry Rose. He offered her a fancy home and anything money could buy. She rejected it all, only wanting to love and serve God.

Rose worked hard to help support her poor family by selling herbs, flowers, and vegetables from her garden and doing needlework and other delicate sewing.

Rose joined the Dominican order at age 20 and spent her days in prayer and fasting. She visited the poor and brought them food from her garden and medicine made from the herbs she grew. She offered all her good works and sufferings to God for the conversion of sinners and the souls in Purgatory. She died at age 31 in the year 1617 and was canonized in 1671 by Pope Clement X.