St. Rose of Lima  
Feast Day: August 23   (1586-1617)

Some Saints have travelled around the world, Rose of Lima became a saint without ever leaving her backyard!

She was born on April 20, 1586 to proud parents Gaspar de Flores and Maria de Oliva. During the Pentecost of that year, she was baptized Isabel de Flores, named after her aunt and godmother. One day a household maid, amazed at the great beauty of the tiny baby, exclaimed that she looked just like a rose. Isabel’s mother agreed and declared that she would be called Rose from then on. At the age of 14, she was confirmed, taking Rose as her Confirmation name.

Throughout her childhood and youth, Rose did not have the opportunity to attend school. She stayed at home and worked in the garden, growing a variety of beautiful flowers. Rose was enchanted with the butterflies, birds and flowers that surrounded her because they reminded her of God’s beauty. She also learned to embroider on silk and create designs, usually of flowers.

As a child, Rose admired Saint Catherine of Siena and devoted her life to emulating her ways by wanting to live only for Jesus and challenging herself with difficult situations. She also built a prayer hut for herself in the backyard so she could have a place to be alone and pray.

Her parents’ financial difficulties presented Rose with a real conflict. She wanted to enter a convent, become a sister, and live a life offered to God. However, her parents wanted her to marry so that they would have a son-in-law to help them financially. Finally, Rose found an answer to this problem. To help her parents, she stayed home and sold her needlework and the flowers she raised in the garden and at the same time, joined the Third Order of Saint Dominic. She wore the white habit and black veil of the Dominican sisters and she spent many more hours a day in her prayer hut, eventually living in that hut.

Rose’s love for God also led her to love the poor. Her spirit of mission to bring the love of God to everyone led her to make sure that all could get basic medical care. In her parents’ home, she set up one room as a free medical clinic for poor children and elderly people who were ill. This free service became the beginning of social service in Peru.

In the last year of her life, Rose became very ill, and died on August 24, 1617. She was widely known and loved by both the rich and poor as huge crowds gathered when they heard about her death. She was buried privately in the cloistered part of St. Dominic’s Church.

Saint Rose of Lima is a great example of the great impact we can have on our community and the world just by our actions in our own neighborhoods. She is the patron Saint of Latin America and the Philippines and also the first saint born in the Americas.
St. Rose of Lima was born in Peru on April 20, 1856. She was a beautiful little girl that resembled a flower, for which her mother called her Rose.

Since she did not have the opportunity to go to school, she stayed at home, working in the garden, growing different flowers. The butterflies, birds and different colored flowers reminded her of the beauty of God.

Since she was a little girl, St. Rose of Lima felt a great desire to serve God and join a convent, so she joined the religious community of the Dominican Sisters. Since her parents were very poor, she stayed home selling the flowers she grew in her garden and the beautiful pieces of embroidery she made to help them.

In her Garden she had a prayer hut that she used since she was very young. She would spent a lot of time praying and being in the presence of God.

Her love for God also led her to love the poor. Her missionary spirit to bring the love of God to everyone led her to start a free medical clinic in a single room in her parents' home for poor children and elderly who were ill so that they could receive basic medical care.

When she was 30 years old she herself became very ill, but she offered her suffering to God always saying that her love for God grew more each day. She died a year later and was widely known by both rich and poor.

St. Rose of Lima’s desire to serve God led her to become a saint and bring positive change in the world without leaving her hometown.

She is the patron Saint of Latin America and the Philippines and also the first saint born in the Americas.