

Saint Rita of Cascia

Directions: Read the biography and answer the questions.

Saint Rita of Cascia felt called to the religious life as a young girl, but her parents arranged for her to marry a rich and ill-tempered man with whom she had two sons. Her husband had many enemies and he was killed in a violent family feud. It was customary at the time for families to take revenge for deaths such as this one, but Saint Rita publicly forgave the murderers and tried to convince her sons and her husband's family to do the same. Her sons died of dysentery before they could avenge their father's death. After these deaths, Rita was able to enter the convent and achieve her dream of becoming a nun. She was a model of great piety and she inspired many people through her holy life of prayer. She had a special devotion to the passion of Christ. On Good Friday she prayed to alleviate some small portion of Jesus Christ's suffering. God answered her prayer when she experienced a wound on her forehead that resembled the wounds from Christ's crown of thorns. Many miracles occurred after her death and her body is still incorrupt today in the basilica of Cascia in Italy.



1. How did Saint Rita show her holiness after her husband's death?

2. When have you had a hard time forgiving others?

3. How can you think and pray about Jesus Christ's passion and death in your life?
