

St. Philomena Patroness and Protrectress of the Living Rosary



Prayer to Saint Philomena

Hail, O innocent Philomena, who, for love of Jesus, preserved the lily of your virginity in all its brightness. Hail, O illustrious Philomena, who shed your blood so courageously for Jesus Christ.

I bless the Lord for all the graces He granted you during your lifetime, and most especially at the hour of your death. I praise Him and glorify Him for the honor and power with which He has crowned you, and I beseech you to obtain for me from God the graces I request through your intercession.

Saint Philomena, beloved daughter of Jesus and Mary, pray for us who have recourse to you!
Amen.

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Credited with countless miracles and intercessions since discovery of her tomb in the most ancient catacombs of St. Priscilla in Rome in 1802, St. Philomena is prayed to by people of diverse ages, culture and social standing around the world. The young virgin who was martyred at age 13, willingly traded her earthly life for heavenly salvation and continues her work today promoting the virtues of purity and sanctity among the world's youth and bringing the faithful closer to our Blessed Mother and Jesus Christ. It would seem she was held in quiet reserve by God for nearly seventeen centuries and summoned at a time when so much uncertainty and absence of faith abound.

On August 10, 1835, someone received a miraculous cure of a severe heart ailment at Saint Philomena's shrine in Mugnano del Cardinale, Italy, during the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Immediately following, she appealed to Pope Gregory XVI to begin an examination for the beatification of "Filumena," daughter of light. And on Jan. 13, 1837, Pope Gregory XVI named St. Philomena Patroness of the Living Rosary, and declared her to be the "Thaumaturga," the "Great Wonder-Worker of the nineteenth century." In a solemn decree, he raised her to the altar of the Church, granting her a special feast day (August 11) and a Mass in her honor.

Pauline promoted Saint Philomena as the Supporter of Missionary Priests. Upon her return to France from Mugnano, she was eager to recount the story of her miraculous cure with her dear friend, the Venerable Cure of Ars, **St. John Vianney**, and offered him part of the precious relics she brought from the Sanctuary. Immediately, an incredible bond and well-known devotion formed between this holy priest and his "Dear Little Saint."

St. Philomena

Virgin, Martyr and Wonder Worker

The very name of Philomena contains the words: filia luminis, daughter of light. She is the enlightener of a dark and corrupt age confounding the sneers of materialism. She is the Patroness of the Children of Mary. Her mission today is to draw us to the Immaculate Heart of Mary through imitation of her heroic virtues of purity, obedience and humility. Saint Philomena is an anchor of HOPE in this dark age of despair.

For the complete story of St. Philomena go to

<http://www.philomena.org/patroness.asp#thumb>