

Messages from
Saint Rita of Cascia
Patron Saint of Impossible Causes



on

PERSEVERANCE

**Prayer for Perseverance
in Pursuit of
Personal Holiness**

“Most Holy Sacred Heart of Jesus, help my heart to persevere in all that is holy. Make me strong in perseverance where I am weak. Never let me become discouraged in pursuing personal holiness. Amen.”

*St. Rita of Cascia
July 10, 2011*

Saint Rita of Cascia

Patron Saint of Impossible Causes

(1381 – 1457)

- Born in Italy to peacemaker parents.
- Became a wife, mother, widow, and a religious.
- Felt called to religious life, but was betrothed by her parents at an early age. Rita became a wife and mother of twin sons.
- Widowed after 18 years of marriage, when her husband was murdered. Rita pledged to forgive his killers and to convince her sons to do likewise. To prevent her sons from seeking revenge, she begged God to take her sons, who repented before dying.
- Convinced her husband's family and the rival family responsible for her husband's death to make peace and put the vendetta to rest forever.
- Again felt called to religious life, but three times the nuns refused to accept her. Rita then miraculously entered the cloister, where she lived as an Augustinian nun for 40 years. In return, she was told to publish that there is nothing *impossible* to God.
- On Good Friday of 1442, while praying before a replica of the crucified Christ, Rita offered to relieve Christ's suffering. When Heaven accepted, a thorn from the crown of thorns pierced her forehead. The wound remained open and visible until her death.
- St. Rita was canonized in 1900. Her body has been incorrupt over 500 years.

Feast Day: May 22

**July 18, 2011 / Monday Service –
Peace in All Hearts through Holy Love**

Jesus is here with His Heart exposed. He says: “I am your Jesus, born Incarnate.”

“My brothers and sisters, tonight I advise you, review the Messages on perseverance, which was a great grace from Heaven and given to you by St. Rita. Make them a part of your spirituality, and persevere in Holy Love.”

“Tonight I am imparting to you My Blessing of Divine Love.”

*(Cover drawing of St. Rita of Cascia by
the Visionary, Maureen Sweeney-Kyle)*

Messages from
Saint Rita of Cascia
on
PERSEVERANCE

*Messages to the Visionary,
Maureen Sweeney-Kyle*

Archangel Gabriel Enterprises, Inc.

This booklet contains messages given by St. Rita of Cascia to the American Visionary, Maureen Sweeney-Kyle, regarding the virtue of perseverance. All public messages are posted on our website:

<http://www.holylove.org>

**Current Canonical Explanation:
RESPONSE TO APPARITIONS AND
VISIONARIES FOR ROMAN CATHOLICS**

Since the abolition of Canon 1399 and 2318 of the former Code of Canon Law by Paul VI in AAS58 (1966) page 1186, publications about new apparitions, revelation, prophecies, miracles, etc., have been allowed to be distributed and read by the faithful without the express permission of the Church, providing that they contain nothing which contravenes faith and morals. This means, no imprimatur is necessary.

**The Discernment of Visionaries
and Apparitions Today**

by Albert J. Hebert, S.M., Page III

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(With sketches by the Visionary, Maureen Sweeney-Kyle.)



St. Rita of Cascia

Messages on Perseverance

July 7, 2011

St. Rita of Cascia says: "Praise be to Jesus."

"I have come to speak to you concerning perseverance. Think of a flower. The roots are firmly planted in the soil of Holy Love. The plant that rises out of the soil is Holy Humility. The leaves that surround the bloom, adding to its beauty, are faith, hope and trust. The flower – the ornament of the whole plant – is perseverance; for it is through all of these other virtues, perseverance blooms. Without Holy Love, Holy Humility, faith, hope and trust, the soul is unable to persevere in prayer or good works. Understand, then, that when you persevere in anything spiritual, all of these virtues are at work."



July 8, 2011

St. Rita of Cascia says: "Praise be to Jesus."

"For any soul to persevere in his pursuit of personal holiness, he must be courageous. He must not give in to or listen to Satan's words of discouragement, which

lead away from prayer and good works. He must allow Holy Love to be the guardian of his heart in every present moment; thus protecting the soul from distractions.”

“The soul is assaulted in every possible way by his arch-enemy – Satan – through accusations, lies and every sort of temptation; but within the ‘heart of the soul’ must be courageous perseverance in Holy Love. This is Christ’s weapon and His Victory. If Holy Love is present, perseverance is also present.”

July 10, 2011

July 10, 2011 – A.M.

St. Rita of Cascia says: “Praise be to Jesus.”

“Today I come to point out to you the necessity of perseverance in everyday – moment to moment – holiness. The soul who seeks to walk the spiritual journey of Holy Love must pray for the grace – the virtue – of perseverance in the virtuous life. Without this Heavenly support, the soul will become distracted, even discouraged, along the way.”

“Perseverance is like the dyke which holds back the flood of Satan’s attack upon Holy Love in the heart; or it can be likened to a ladder that encourages and assists the soul in climbing the heights of sanctity. Never take perseverance for granted. Petition the Sacred Heart daily for this special virtue which safeguards all the others, and helps the souls to live in the truth.”

“Pray this way.”

“Most Holy Sacred Heart of Jesus, help my heart to persevere in all that is holy. Make me strong in perseverance where I am weak. Never let me become discouraged in pursuing personal holiness. Amen.”

July 10, 2011 – P.M.

St. Rita of Cascia says: “Praise be to Jesus.”

“When you make a soup, the broth becomes part of the vegetables and meat and vice versa. These flavor each other. So it is with perseverance. The virtues are flavored with perseverance, and perseverance becomes part of the virtues. Perseverance holds the virtues together just as the broth embraces the parts of the soup.”

“Or let me put it this way. The mortar that holds the bricks in place, in the house of holiness within the soul, would be perseverance.”

“Perseverance in truth must be in the center of every heart for the soul to progress through the Chambers of the United Hearts.”

July 11, 2011

St. Rita of Cascia says: “Praise be to Jesus.”

“Please understand that every sin is a transgression against Holy Love. It follows, therefore, that every sin is the result of failure to persevere in Holy Love.”

“I want to give you Heavenly understanding of these truths. Such understanding would penetrate your heart and never leave.”

July 12, 2011

St. Rita of Cascia says: "Praise be to Jesus."

"I tell you, the soul that does not pray for perseverance in the virtuous life is not sincere in his pursuit of personal holiness. No one can hope to persevere in righteousness without Heavenly help. When souls become over-confident in their own capabilities, they are not God-reliant – not trusting and dependent on God's grace."

"This is how the enemy of every soul captures the present moment and influences thoughts, words and actions. This is the reason evil has crept into the holiest of places – into long-trusted institutions, governments, education and media. It is the lapse in perseverance towards personal holiness that is the root cause."

"People cannot live in the truth if they do not persevere in the truth. Therefore, comprehend that lack of perseverance leads to every sort of compromise."

July 14, 2011

St. Rita of Cascia says: "Praise be to Jesus."

"I have come so that all the children of God hear this truth. Perseverance is the mother of all virtue. Therefore, it follows, perseverance is the mother of all holiness."

"Consider the role that a mother assumes. She is protective, encouraging, nurturing; such is the way perseverance acts in the soul. Mother Perseverance protects the virtuous life by tenaciously guarding each effort in virtue. Through perseverance, the soul is encouraged to practice virtue, even in the most difficult

trials. Like a mother, perseverance nurtures the virtuous life, and gives hope in every test or trial.”

“Yes, perseverance deserves the title ‘Mother Perseverance’. Esteem her as such.”

July 15, 2011

St. Rita of Cascia says: “Praise be to Jesus.”

“Please listen now as I confide to you how perseverance played a role in my life. It was Mother Perseverance which gave me the courage to pray and to continue to pray. My prayers moved the Heart of Jesus to convert warring parties in Cascia. Feuds were resolved. Through prayer, Jesus converted my husband and my twin sons – just in time.”

“Mother Perseverance asked me to trust in my calling to the religious life; for all trust in God is the fruit of persevering hope.”

“When the soul perseveres in prayer, God listens. He never turns away from a trusting heart. So, as I relate to you how Mother Perseverance brought me through life’s struggles, I invite each soul to step into this motherly embrace. These days it is difficult to feel secure; but if you persevere in your journey of personal holiness, you will find peace even in the midst of great trials.”

“Persevering prayer can find solutions where there are none. Have hope.”

July 17, 2011

St. Rita of Cascia says: “Praise be to Jesus.”

“Before I close my dialogue with you on Mother Perseverance, I would be derelict if I did not mention a sister virtue to perseverance, which is forbearance. Forbearance is the courageous constraint of emotional reaction in ongoing difficulties. It is the showcase of patience – patient endurance. While perseverance can be practiced interiorly in the virtuous life, forbearance is the outward sign of inner courage in exterior trials.”

“Forbearance is a special gift of grace given to the patient, persevering soul.”



July 17, 2011

St. Thomas Aquinas says:
“Praise be to Jesus.”

“Listen carefully now, as you seem to be mixing up what Sr. Rita told you. You are confusing fortitude with forbearance. Fortitude is the ‘miracle’ of the Holy Spirit. It is fortitude that gives strength to perseverance. It is fortitude that enables the soul to practice forbearance.”

“Fortitude gives the soul strength to practice virtue.”

“Now is it clear?”

Maureen: “I guess.”

“Jesus desires the people know this, and so please pass it on.”

July 18, 2011

St. Rita of Cascia says: "Praise be to Jesus."

"I have come to you today with the final message on perseverance. The Lord God allowed me to come here and to deliver this body of messages on perseverance, for this Mission has persevered in the face of numerous persecutions. These have come from civil authorities, Church hierarchy, media and the general public. You have been misunderstood, calumnized, rash judged and, yes, even lied about."

"The sound spirituality offered here is too often overlooked. People who speak negatively about this Mission are given every consideration, while healings and other miracles are summarily dismissed."

"But through it all, the Mission has grown – even thrived – thanks to the grace of perseverance. So, the Mission will continue to persevere, bringing souls to their knees, changing the course of lives and changing the future of the world through Holy Love."

"Only evil would oppose such an effort."

Holy Love is –

“The two great Commandments of Love—to love God above all else and to love neighbor as self.”

“The fulfillment and the embodiment of the Ten Commandments.”

“The measure by which all souls will be judged.”

“The barometer of personal holiness.”

“The Gateway to the New Jerusalem.”

“The Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

“The First Chamber of the United Hearts.”

“The Purifying Flame of Love of Mary’s Heart that all souls must pass through.”

“The Refuge of Sinners and the Ark of these last days.”

“The source of unity and peace amongst all people and all nations.”

“Holy Love is God’s Divine Will.”

(Jesus – November 8, 2010)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they assembled in a body; and one of them, a lawyer, in an attempt to trip Him up, asked Him, “Teacher, which commandment of the law is the greatest?”

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments the whole law is based, and the prophets as well.” **(Matthew 22:34-40)**

“I am your Jesus, born Incarnate. I have come to speak to you about the virtue of love. Holy Love is, as you know, the two great commandments: love God above all else and your neighbor as yourself. It is the embrace of all Ten Commandments. Holy Love is the Immaculate Heart of My Mother. It is the Divine Will of God.”

“Holy Love can be likened to the sun, which spills its rays over the earth enlightening the shadows of darkness. It is like the keys to the kingdom I entrusted to My apostle Peter. It is the door to My Sacred Heart and union with Divine Love.”

“Holy Love is the harmony between man, nature, and the Creator. It is the interpretation of the law and the means of all sanctification.”

“The will of man must choose Holy Love. It is not open to debate, and stands undaunted in the face of discernment. Holy Love cannot be judged, for it is the judge.”

“Holy Love is offered in every present moment and follows the soul into eternity.” **(June 28, 1999)**

SELF-LOVE vs. HOLY LOVE

*(Given to Maureen Sweeney-Kyle by
Blessed Mother on August 18, 1997)*

SELF-LOVE	HOLY LOVE
Is motivated towards self-advantage in thought, word, and deed.	Is motivated in every thought, word, and action by love of God, and neighbor as self.
Sees only others' faults, not his own. Considers himself on the right path—perhaps even humble and virtuous.	Sees himself full of imperfections. Is always seeking to be perfected through love. Considers everyone more humble and holy than himself.
Holds a checklist in his heart of every wrong perpetrated against him.	Imitates Divine Mercy as best he can. Is compassionate and forgiving.
Is quick to anger and stands vigil over his own rights making certain they are not transgressed.	Is patient. Takes note of others' needs and concerns.
Hangs on to his own opinions refusing to surrender to another viewpoint.	Offers his own opinions but listens to others and lends them equal merit with his own.

SELF-LOVE <i>cont.</i>	HOLY LOVE <i>cont.</i>
Takes pride in his own achievements. May even take pride in his spiritual progress.	Realizes all things proceed from God; that without God he is capable of no good thing. All good comes from grace.
Sees himself and the world as the be-all/end-all. His only pleasure is thus achieved through the world.	Takes joy in storing up heavenly treasure, in growing closer to God and deeper in holiness. Knows the difference between earthly pleasures and spiritual joy.
Uses the goods of the world to satisfy self.	Uses the goods of the world to satisfy quest for holiness.
Objects to every cross. Sees trials as a curse. Resents others' good fortune.	Surrenders to the cross through love as Jesus did. Sees crosses as a grace to be used to convert others.
Prays only for himself and his own needs.	Prays for all in need.
Cannot accept God's Will. Becomes bitter over trials.	Accepts God's Will with a loving heart even when difficult.

About the Apparitions

Since 1985, Jesus and Blessed Mother have been appearing to Maureen Sweeney-Kyle on an almost daily basis and have given her a series of missions to accomplish.

1986–1990

OUR LADY, PROTECTRESS OF THE FAITH

(Promotion of the Title and the Devotion)

NOTE: In January of 1988, the Cleveland Diocese turned down Our Lady's request for this title, stating that "there were already too many devotions to Blessed Mother and that the Holy Spirit was known in Church circles as the Guardian of the Faith."

Then, on August 28, 1988, Our Lady came as "Guardian of the Faith" to Visionary, Patricia Talbot, of Cuenca, Ecuador, in South America. In 1991, the Bishops of Ibarra and Guayaquil in Ecuador approved the movement which contains the name "Guardian of the Faith" and thus implicitly the title.

1990–1993

PROJECT MERCY

(Nationwide Anti-Abortion Rosary Crusades)

1993–Present

The combined Revelations of **MARY, REFUGE OF HOLY LOVE** and the **CHAMBERS OF THE UNITED HEARTS.**

In 1993, Our Lady asked that this Mission be known as **Holy Love Ministries**.

Visionary:

Maureen Sweeney-Kyle is a very shy, timid and frail housewife and grandmother. She grew up and still resides in the Cleveland, Ohio area with her husband.

In 1993, Our Lady began **Holy Love Ministries** and then requested that the Ministry procure property for a shrine in Lorain County, Ohio. This was accomplished in 1995. This 115-acre shrine is now known as **Maranatha Spring and Shrine**, the home of **Holy Love Ministries**, an Ecumenical Lay Apostolate to make known to the world the Chambers of the United Hearts.

WE WELCOME ALL PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS.

PRAYER IS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.

**All who come in pilgrimage here
are invited to join us in prayer and
the peace that Heaven offers at this site.**

Spiritual Director:

Over the past twenty-six+ years, Maureen has had five spiritual directors who have been experts in Marian Theology.

“My messenger has many spiritual advisors and a competent spiritual director who reads all the messages ... all of My messenger’s advisors are anonymous. Wisdom dictates so.”

(Jesus - August 12, 2008)



On the joyful occasion of the visit by the visionary, Maureen Sweeney-Kyle, with Pope John Paul II in August of 1999. Her husband, Don, Archbishop Gabriel Gonsum Ganaka of Nigeria (1937-1999), and Rev. Frank Kenney, her Spiritual Director (1994-2004), accompanied her on the visit.

Saint Rita of Cascia

(Continued from back cover)

The husband chosen for her, Paolo Mancini, was a good provider though gradually revealed a violent, volatile nature. He was unfaithful, abusive and domineering. Heavily involved in the factional infighting that gripped the Italian landscape, he made many enemies.

Rita prayed fervently that her husband would have a change of heart and become a better husband and father to their twin sons. Paolo experienced a conversion when he was sent a vision of himself as he was seen by others. He begged Rita's forgiveness for the difficult life he had subjected her to and vowed to change. They had been married for 18 years when Paolo was ambushed on his way to work and murdered, his mutilated body dumped on the family's doorstep.

Their enraged teenaged sons vowed a vendetta. Entreaties by their mother to turn the other cheek were scoffed at. Rita begged God to stop her boys before they also committed murder. Within that year, before they could act on their anger, both boys contracted an illness and died. Rita was distraught at the loss of her entire family, but took some comfort in the fact that her sons died in a state of grace.

Devoting herself to charity, Rita decided to pursue her early wishes of joining a convent. It is said that the local order of Augustinian nuns refused her on the grounds that she was not a virgin. A more probable reason for rejection,

several of the nuns came from families of Paolo's declared enemies and they did not want to inflame the convent with tensions brought in from the outside world. Rita implored her patron saints for help, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Nicholas of Tolentino. Three times she requested admission to the convent and three times she was denied. One tale of how she was eventually accepted has Rita hearing a knock at her door during her prayers to her three patrons. Though no one was there, a voice called to her, "Rita! Rita! Fear not, God will admit you into the cloister as His spouse." When she resumed praying, John the Baptist appeared to her and told her to follow him to the Convent of Mary Magdalene. Along the way, they were joined by Saints Augustine and Nicholas of Tolentino, radiant in light. The saints blessed her at the convent door then disappeared. Rita was found the next day by the astonished nuns, inside their convent! After she recounted the story of her miraculous entrance, it was decided that she should remain with them. The other tale explains that through prayer and meditation Rita was able to create such an atmosphere of serenity about her that it enabled her to effect a signed truce between her husband's family and the family of his enemies. Impressed by her dedication and sincerity, the prioress of the convent admitted her.

As a nun, Rita tended the elderly and sick sisters and devoted much time to prayer, and meditation, allegedly sleeping only two hours a night. When she had lived in the convent for 25 years, she heard a sermon on the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ which focused on his

crown of thorns. While later meditating on this in her cell she felt an intense pain in her head. A wound opened on her forehead. Never healing, it grew foul smelling with infection and eventually filled with little worms. Rita was shunned as repulsive by the rest of the nuns and remained isolated in her cell, praying and meditating with a mystical fervor. In 1450 the Pope declared a Jubilee Year and Rita requested permission to travel to Rome with the other nuns. She was told she could not leave until her wound healed. After a day of prayer all trace of the wound vanished and Rita made the pilgrimage. Upon walking over the convent's threshold on her return, the festering wound instantly reappeared.

Rita's parents were known for their ability to make peace between the warring factions of Guelphs and Ghibellines, and she too had a gift for peacemaking. Citizens of Cascia sought her out to mediate arguments and disagreements that seemed impossible to settle. She gained a reputation for the powers of her prayers, healing those beyond the help of medical science. While Rita was dying of tuberculosis, a cousin came to visit her the winter before her death. When asked if there was anything at all that she wanted, she replied, "Bring me a rose from my childhood garden in Roccaporena." The cousin assumed that being January, this request was impossible to fill. Yet there in the garden she found two roses in bloom and brought them to Rita. "Would you like anything else?" asked the cousin. Rita requested two figs from the same garden. There they were found, hanging from a tree in the dead of winter.

Upon Rita's death in May of 1457, the bells of every church in the surrounding villages began to ring of their own accord. Rita's body exuded the odor of roses and her cell was filled with light. As the town gathered to pay their last respects, spontaneous healing occurred among the mourners. Many reported intense joy and feelings of love, the burdens of life lifted. Her body was preserved and is still on view at the Sanctuary of Saint Rita in Cascia. Because so many women identify with her difficult life, her cult quickly spread throughout Europe and is particularly strong in Italy, Spain and South America, where girls are frequently given the name of Rita. Her feast day brings thousands of pilgrims to Cascia as she is one of the most popular saints in the world.

Though she died in the mid-15th century, Saint Rita of Cascia was the first female saint of the 20th Century. By that time, devotion to this woman who had been an abused wife, a mother who lost her children, a widow of a murdered husband, and finally, a nun, had spread throughout the world. Roses are an important part of the imagery of Saint Rita and on her feast day there is a procession when roses are blessed and their petals distributed. Six centuries after her death a swarm of bees still live in the wall of her cell. Occasionally Rita is depicted with her twin sons, but generally, she is shown as a nun in a black habit with a crown of thorns, a crucifix and a wound in her head.

(Excerpted from the book: "Saints: Ancient and Modern" by Barbara Calamari and Sandra DiPasqua. Viking Studio, 2007)

Additional Resources Available Through Archangel Gabriel Enterprises, Inc.

The Chambers of the Divine, Sacred Heart of Jesus
Conversations with Divine Love
Discernment: Discovering the Truth
Divine Love
First Chamber of the United Hearts—Holy Love
Heaven Speaks to the Heart of the World
Heaven's Last Call to Humanity
Holy and Divine Love Messages for Priests
Holy and Divine Love Messages on the Eucharist
Holy and Divine Love: The Remedy and the Triumph
Lessons on the Virtues
Messages from God the Father
Messages from St. John Vianney
Messages from St. Peter on Temptation
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Our Lady's Messages at the Arbor
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The Revelation of Our United Hearts: The Secrets Revealed
St. Michael's Shield of Truth Devotion
Triumphant Hearts Prayer Book
Truth
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Saint Rita of Cascia

1381-1457

Feast Day: May 22

Patronage: Impossible Causes, Bad Marriages, Victims of Spousal Abuse, Widows

Invoked Against: Sterility, Loneliness, Bodily ills, Smallpox

Symbols: Roses, Bees, Figs, Nun with cross receiving wound, Crown of thorns, Crucifix

Margarita Lotti was the answer to the prayers of a devoutly Catholic older couple in Roccaporena, Italy. During the pregnancy, her mother had a vision of an angel telling her “You will give birth to a daughter marked with the seal of sanctity, gifted with every virtue, a helper to the helpless and an advocate of the afflicted.” Her father named the child Rita, as the Angel had called her. After the baby’s baptism, bees would hover over her while she slept. A symbol of divine presence, they never harmed nor woke her.

Rita came of age at the time of a deep schism in the Church – the Pope had fled to Avignon and the future of many religious communities was uncertain. Her true wish was to become a nun but she obeyed her parents and married instead, to support them in their old age.

(Continued on page 15)