Saint Rita of Cascia

Saint Rita of Cascia is a saint born in Roccaporena, Italy during the 15th century. It is said that when she was a baby, the day after her baptism a swarm of white bees surrounded her and went in and out of her mouth without injuring her ("St. Rita - Catholic Online", 2021). She is most known for the mark on her forehead which was given to her when she was meditating while she was a nun. It was as though a thorn from the crown that encircled Christ's head had loosened itself and penetrated her own flesh. ("St. Rita - Catholic Online", 2021).

Rita, at a young age wanted to be a nun, but her parents didn’t let her but instead arranged a marriage at the age of 12 with a man named Paolo Mancini against her will. The person she was married to was bad and had many feuds in his family with another family. During this marriage Rita had two children. Through Rita’s influence on her husband, he became a better man because of his time of her. Paolo then sadly got murdered by one of his friends who betrayed him. ("St. Rita - Catholic Online", 2021).

During the 15th century Italy was going through a renaissance and there were many artists such as Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci who were receiving funding from the church at the time ("Italian Renaissance", 2020). At the time the church had immense wealth and political power. This meant that it impacted many people in a very large way. The church also funded ministries, which housed nuns and brothers. Saint Rita was one of these nuns and was part of St. Mary Magdalen Monastery in Cascia. This monastery was a part of the convent of Augustinian Nuns. This group of nuns, like all nuns, were devoted to God and took vows of chastity to become closer to God. They also learned, helped the sick and educated others as their nun vocation. Saint Rita’s vocation of nun is a priestly one. This means she was close to God and brought others to God by education.

Saint Rita’s values included modesty, prudence, justice and temperance. She used fortitude to end a family dispute and convert her husband to a better man. She used fortitude and prudence to pursue her goals of becoming a nun when it seemed unlikely. She used justice to stop her sons from eventually killing people. These actions are reasons why St Rita is regarded as a very pure and ethical role model.

In conclusion Saint Rita was a very priestly person, showing many virtues and finding ways to do the impossible. She helped many people in her time of being a nun and was canonized in 1900 by Pope Leo XIII.

References:

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