

MORE ON SAINT PHILOMENA

******According to history St. Philomena was born January 10, 291 in Corfu, Greece. She was the daughter of a king in Greece who, with his wife had converted to Christianity. When Philomena was thirteen she took a vow that she would consecrate herself to God as a virgin. When Emperor Diocletian threatened to declare war on her father, he went with his family to Rome to ask for peace. The Emperor fell in love with the young and beautiful Philomena. He proposed that Philomena marry him, but she refused to marry him. After she refused, he subjected her to a series of torments such as scourging, from whose effects two angels cured her; drowning with an anchor attached to her, but two angels cut the rope and raised her to the river bank; being shot with arrows, but on the first occasion her wounds were healed, on the second the arrows turned aside, and on the third, they returned and killed six of the archers, and several of the others became Christians. Finally the Emperor had her decapitated, which occurred on a Friday at three in the afternoon, as with the death of Jesus. The two anchors, three arrows, the palm and the ivy leaf on the tiles found in the tomb were interpreted as symbols of her martyrdom. In these visions she also revealed that her birthday was 10 January, that her martyrdom occurred on 10 August (the date also of the arrival of her relics in Mugnano del Cardinale), and that her name "Filumena" meant "daughter of light". (It is usually taken to be derived from a Greek word meaning "beloved".)

******(excerpted from: aesaintsoftheday)

*******Devotion to Saint Philomena continues to explode all around the globe. The Universal Arch confraternity of St. Philomena continues to grow at a remarkable pace.

"Why is Saint Philomena making such a powerful spiritual return in our own times? One reason is that the youth of today need an example of heroic Christian purity, even when they do not find support for purity from their society, their friends, even at times from their own parents. Many of today's youth are being exposed to numerous occasions of blasphemy and impurity through pornography, immodest clothing, obscene movies, and oftentimes, most tragically, **with** the consent of their parents.

Today's youth need a young heroic witness for the upholding of Christian purity even if their peers and their own parents are not encouraging them. Because Philomena said **yes** to Christ and to His Kingdom, it is little wonder that Jesus is making her well known again as the Patroness of Purity, for the young people of our century.

*******(excerpted from: www.philomena.us)



Many youth are wearing the Cord of St. Philomena, which has been approved by the Sacred Congregation of rites and is enriched with indulgences. Wearers of the Cord ought to have the intention of honoring St. Philomena to the best of their ability in order to merit protection against evils of soul and body, and to obtain through her prayers perfect chastity and the spirit of faith. More information regarding St. Philomena may be obtained from her sanctuary at the following: <http://www.philomena.it> **OR**

email: SantaFilomena@philomena.it. **Mailing address:** Santuario Santa Filomena, 83027 Mugnano de Cardinale, Avellino, Italy.

On a Personal Note: Nick and I have been to the Shrine of St. Philomena in Mugnano, Italy. We have been blessed to be given a second class relic of the saint and would be happy to have anyone who wished to venerate the relic to do so...Just come and ask us.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinpire.com

Saint Philomena

**Patroness of: The Living Rosary and
The Children of Mary**

PRINCIPAL FEAST DAY: AUGUST 11TH



*Saint Philomena,
powerful with God, pray for us!*

Saint Philomena

THE STORY OF ST. PHILOMENA

*On May 25, 1802, excavators in the ancient Catacomb of St. Priscilla in Rome came upon a well-preserved shelf tomb sealed with terra cotta slabs in the manner usually reserved for nobility or great martyrs. The tomb was marked with three tiles, inscribed with the following confusing words: LUMENA/PAXTE/CUMFI. However, if one places the first tile last and separates the words properly, the very intelligible sentence emerges: *Pax tecum, Filumena*, which is "Peace be with you, Philomena." Also inscribed on the tiles were symbols: a lily, arrows, an anchor and a lance, which would appear to indicate virginity and martyrdom. Inside the coffin there were discovered the remains of a girl of about twelve or thirteen years of age, along with a vial or ampulla of her dried blood.

Transferred to the Treasury of the Rare Collections of Christian Antiquity in the Vatican, the remains were soon forgotten by the public, especially since no record existed of a virgin martyr named Philomena. But in 1805, a Neapolitan priest, Don Francesco di Lucia, traveling to Rome with his newly appointed bishop, requested and, after a brief delay, received the relics of this martyr "Philomena" to enshrine in his village church at Mugnano, Italy, near Naples.

Immediately upon the official donation of St. Philomena's sacred remains, signal favors began to be granted through her intercession and unusual events to occur. The favors, graces and even miracles started to increase, even before her enshrinement at Mugnano, and they steadily grew in number thereafter - such that this virgin martyr soon earned the title, "Philomena, Powerful with God". In 1837, only 35 years after her exhumation, Pope Gregory XVI elevated this "Wonder-Worker of the Nineteenth Century" to sainthood. In an act unprecedented in the history of Catholicism, she became the *only* person recognized by the Church as a Saint solely on the basis of her powerful intercession, since nothing historical was known of her except her name and the evidence of her martyrdom.

St. Philomena has been successfully invoked by her supplicants in every sort of need, such that she has become another patron of "hopeless" and "impossible" cases, like St. Jude or St. Rita, but she is known to be

especially powerful in cases involving conversion of sinners, return to the Sacraments, expectant mothers, destitute mothers, problems with children, unhappiness in the home, sterility, priests and their work, help of the sick, the missions, real estate, money problems, food for the poor and mental illness. But truly, as her devotees discovered, no case, of whatever matter, is too trivial or too unimportant to concern her.

THE SAINTS AND ST. PHILOMENA

Among her most devout clients was St. John Vianney (the Cure' of Ars), whose childlike devotion to this virgin Saint played an intimate part in his daily life, other Saints who were always devoted to her prayed to her and sang her praises were: St. Peter Julian Eymard, St. Peter Chanel, St. Anthony Mary Claret, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, St. Euphrasia Pelletier, St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, St. John Nepomucene Neumann, Blessed Anna Maria Taigi and Ven. Pauline Jaricot.

THE POPES AND ST. PHILOMENA

A number of Popes have also shown remarkable devotion to St. Philomena as well: **Pope Leo XII** (1823-1829) expressed the greatest admiration for this unknown child-saint and gladly gave his permission for the erection of altars and churches in her honor. **Pope Gregory XVI** (1831-1846), who authorized her public veneration, showed his esteem and devotion to the Saint by giving her the title of "Patroness of the Living Rosary". A Mass and proper Office in her honor were approved by him in 1834 or 1835. This is an extraordinary privilege granted to comparatively few Saints. **Pope Pius IX** (1846-1878) proclaimed her "Patroness of the Children of Mary." **Pope Leo XIII** (1878-1903) made two pilgrimages to her shrine before his election to the papacy. After he had become the Vicar of Christ, he gave a valuable cross to the sanctuary. He approved the Confraternity of St. Philomena and later raised it to an Archconfraternity (which is still headquartered at her shrine at Mugnano, Italy). **Pope St. Pius X** (1903-1914) spoke warmly of her and manifested his devotion to her in various ways. Costly gifts were given by him to her shrine.

Truly, St. Philomena is a powerful intercessor - seemingly held quietly in reserve by Our Divine Lord during these many centuries - for especially strong help in our times. When so much confusion and absence of faith are manifest.

*(excerpted from: www.saintphilomena.com)