

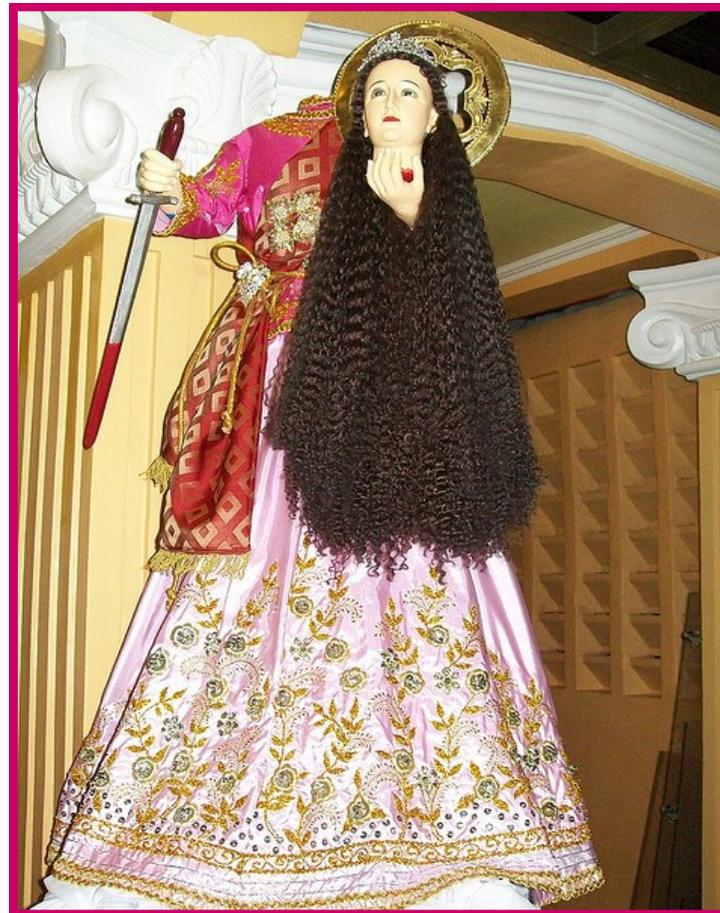


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Saint Quiteria, Virgin and Martyr

(A Gospel-Centered Woman)

Feast Day: May 22



Patronage:
rabies, beasts, and of those thinking of giving up.

The Life Of Saint Quiteria

c. early 5th century

*Saint Quiteria was born in the fifth century (A.D.) along with eight other sisters. Her mother, Calsia was disgusted at the fact that she went through nine childbirths and not one of them was male. She called on her maid Sila to dispose of them by drowning the nine infants. Sila was a follower of Christianity so she ended up giving the babies to a Christian monk to be raised in the Christian community. Their father King Lucio was completely unaware of their births. The monk took care of the girls, baptized them Christians, and taught them all about Christianity. Quiteria was the most dedicated out of her sisters when it came to their faith. She was fascinated with the Virgin Mary and the words of Christ. The monk eventually told the girls that their biological parents were the Royal Rulers of the country, but none of them had the desire to live a luxurious life. Quiteria and her eight other sisters eventually formed a "warrior gang" that traveled around breaking Christians out of jail. This lasted for a few years until they were caught and brought to the King. Once the King realized who they were he asked them to live in the palace. While the sisters lived there they praised Jesus everyday and eventually turned their room into a prayer hall. When the King realized they were Christians he told them to give it up and marry Roman pagans. They refused and were locked up in jail. In jail they praised and glorified Jesus, and eventually an angel came and told Quiteria "Happy and fortunate you are, for you deserved to find grace in front of God, so that God has chosen you as his spouse. It is God's will, that you are to live in solitude in the mount Oria area and there you will exercise in oration and contemplation". The angel released them from jail and they escaped all going in different directions. Quiteria followed the angel and lived on the top of a mountain in the mount Oria area, where she was eventually captured. Once again she declined the marriage offer, and was imprisoned. Again she was freed by an angel, and returned to the mountain along with a group of other women whom she converted to Christianity. Along the way she met Prosen Lastiano the ruler of the city of Aufragia. She converted him to Christianity, but then a few days later he gave it up and became a pagan again. Prosen and his soldiers then decided to kill Quiteria, and when they reached the mountain top they were ascending, Prosen fell down suddenly and lost all feeling in his hands and legs. Through the prayers of Quiteria he regained his senses, and became full of faith. King Lucio was infuriated at the fact that his daughter converted women from his palace and one of his good friends to Christianity. Lucio and his soldiers left the palace so they could hunt her down. When they finally found her at the Aire-sur-l'Adour church in Gascony, France he again tried to force her into marriage, and she declined because she wanted to remain a virgin for Jesus. Her father then ordered one of his soldiers to behead her, and it was done instantly. They also beheaded all of the other Christian women who were with her. Legend has it that after she was beheaded Quiteria walked to the Church of the Virgin Mary with her head in her hands.

Saint Quiteria- Life dedicated to being a disciple of the church

Quiteria lived her life as a true follower of God. Everything she did, she did for her faith, and for God. She refused the life of luxury and she risked her life to break innocent Christians out of jail. She stood up to her father, the king, and was always in prayer. In the worst of times she would forget about everything and just kneel down and pray. She was always praising God. Quiteria also dedicated her faith to the Virgin Mary. Mary inspired her to live the life that God wishes for us to have, and at any moment if God turns to you to do his work you must say yes, and do it to the best of your ability. She also wished to remain a virgin for the rest of her life. Quiteria refused a life of luxury because she knew if she gave up her simple life, then she would not be able to carry out God's tasks, and remain dedicated to her faith. She risked her life to break Christians out of jail because she believed that no innocent child of God should be punished for their faith. If she had died doing it, it would not have mattered to her because she knew she saved many innocent lives. When it comes to refusing her father's requests, not only was she refusing her father, she was refusing the king. Keeping her virginity was important to her. With her amazing self-discipline and her faithful heart, she was able to do so. For the three times she was in jail, she would remove herself from that setting and dedicate her time to praising and praying to God. When she would escape from jail, she would not put her safety first, but rather, instead she would remain in the palace so she could spread Christianity.

Saint Quiteria is a Gospel-Centered Women who:

...develops her personal spirituality and an active faith life

Saint Quiteria devoted her life to her Christian faith, and to the Virgin Mother Mary. Mary inspired her the most, so she wished to remain a virgin until death. It took great faith in God, to decline all of her fathers marriage proposals. She showed her faith by constantly praying and praising God. She lived an active life of faith because she along with her sisters risked their lives to break Christians out of jail. Quiteria's faith was very important to her, and she always placed it above everything else. She dedicated her life to God, and made sure that she lived a life that God would approve of.

*(Excerpted from: rileyluvshelps.blogspot.com)