BOOKLET TO PRINT

Saint Maria Rosa Molas

Life, prayer and novena

Feast day: June 11

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IN BRIEF

Saint Maria Rosa Molas

Catalan religious sister, foundress of the Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation at the service of the sick and the poor.

Feast day	June 11
Born	March 24, 1815, Reus (Catalonia, Spain)
Died	June 11, 1876, Tortosa (Catalonia, Spain)
Canonized	December 11, 1988 by Pope John Paul II
Era	19th century

In this booklet

Life

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Novena to Saint Maria Rosa Molas

Credits and sources

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LIFE

Saint Maria Rosa Molas

Saint Maria Rosa Molas y Vallvé was a Catalan religious sister, born in Reus in 1815 and died in Tortosa in 1876. A nurse, educator and woman of courage, she founded the congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation, devoted to the sick, the poor and children. Canonized by John Paul II in 1988, her feast day is June 11, the day of her death.

Who was Saint Maria Rosa Molas?

Maria Rosa Molas belongs to the great generation of 19th century Spanish foundresses who, in a country shaken by civil wars and epidemics, responded to the needs of the sick, orphans and children without schools. Her life was divided between two cities of Catalonia: Reus, where she grew up and began her religious life, and Tortosa, on the Ebro, where she directed a house of mercy and founded her congregation. The detailed sources on her life come mainly from her religious family; here we keep to the best established facts.

Key dates in the life of Maria Rosa Molas

- **March 24, 1815**: Born in Reus, in Catalonia, on Holy Thursday; she is baptized Rosa Francisca María de los Dolores.
- **c. 1831**: At sixteen, she wishes to consecrate herself to God, but her father opposes it.
- **1841**: She joins the community of sisters serving the hospital of Reus and receives the name Sister Maria Rosa.
- **June 11, 1844**: During the siege of Reus, she persuades General Martín Zurbano to stop the bombardment of the city.
- **March 18, 1849**: With four sisters, she takes charge of the House of Mercy in Tortosa.

- **March 14, 1857**: She founds the congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation.
- **June 11, 1876**: Dies in Tortosa, at the age of sixty-one.
- **May 8, 1977**: Beatified by Pope Paul VI.
- **December 11, 1988**: Canonized by Pope John Paul II.

Doloretes of Reus

She was born in Reus on March 24, 1815, a Holy Thursday. At home she was called Dolores, or by the Catalan diminutive Doloretes. Her mother, María Vallvé, already had two children from a first marriage; with her second husband, José Molas, she had two more, including Dolores. Her parents, deeply religious, taught her the faith. As a teenager, she wanted to give herself to God, but her father refused. She waited, without giving up, for about ten years.

Sister Maria Rosa, at the service of the sick

In 1841, she finally joined the community of consecrated women who served the hospital of Reus. There she took the name Sister Maria Rosa and was given charge of a class of girls. These were years of unrest in Catalonia. In June 1844, while the city was being bombarded by the troops of General Martín Zurbano, she went to him herself to ask him to spare the population. The general agreed. This act, which took great daring, shows a woman able to face violence to protect the weakest.

Tortosa and the foundation

In 1849, she was sent with four sisters to Tortosa to direct the House of Mercy, an institution that took in the poor, the sick and abandoned children. The sisters improved the living conditions of the residents and opened a free school. It was then that Maria Rosa discovered that the community she belonged to

had never received the approval of the Church. Anxious to live in obedience and to secure the future of the work, she placed herself and her companions under the authority of the bishop of Tortosa. On March 14, 1857, the congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation was born.

The name says the mission: to console. The sisters nursed the sick, took in children, taught and visited the poor. Maria Rosa led the congregation until her death. She died in Tortosa on June 11, 1876.

Canonization and devotion

Paul VI beatified her on May 8, 1977, and John Paul II canonized her on December 11, 1988. Her feast is set on June 11. Her body rests in Tortosa, in an altarpiece tomb in the congregation's mother house. The Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation continue her work today in education, health care and social action, in Spain and in other countries.

What can we learn from Saint Maria Rosa Molas?

Maria Rosa Molas was able to wait ten years before following her vocation, then dared to stand before a general to stop a bombardment. Patience and daring: two virtues she put at the service of the most fragile. She also wanted her work to be rooted in the Church, at the price of a new beginning. You can pray to her for caregivers, educators, people who console others, and those who must wait a long time before living out their calling.

To pray with her, see the prayer to Saint Maria Rosa Molas and the novena to Saint Maria Rosa Molas.

Where to pray to Saint Maria Rosa Molas

- **Tortosa** (Catalonia, Spain): the mother house of the Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation, where her tomb is.

- **Reus** (Catalonia, Spain): her hometown, where she began her religious life at the hospital.
- The schools and houses of the Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation.

PRAYER

Prayer to Saint Maria Rosa Molas for the Sick and the Poor

Saint Maria Rosa Molas, a Catalan sister who died in 1876, nursed the sick, took in the poor and children, and founded the Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation. A woman of patience and daring, she dared to ask a general to stop the bombardment of her city. Prayer composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It is not an official liturgical text.

Prayer to Saint Maria Rosa Molas

Saint Maria Rosa Molas,
you waited long years
before you could follow God's call,
without losing faith or hope.
Teach me patience when my road seems closed.

You who went to find the general
so that he would spare your city,
give me the courage to defend the weakest
and to speak when I must speak.

Mother of the sick, the poor and children,
make me an instrument of consolation
for those who suffer around me.
With Our Lady of Consolation,
lead us to Christ our Lord. Amen.

When to pray to Saint Maria Rosa Molas

- On her feast day, June 11.
- For nurses, care assistants and all who work in hospitals.
- For teachers and educators of poor children.
- When a vocation or a plan must wait a long time before coming true.
- For cities and peoples struck by war.
- When you are trying to console someone in grief or distress.

A short invocation

> *Saint Maria Rosa, servant of consolation,*
> *console through us those who weep.*
> *Pray for us. Amen.*

To prepare for her feast, you can pray the novena to Saint Maria Rosa Molas from June 3 to June 11, and read the life of Saint Maria Rosa Molas.

NOVENA

Novena to Saint Maria Rosa Molas

This novena accompanies Saint Maria Rosa Molas, a Catalan sister and foundress of the Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation. To finish it on her feast day, June 11, begin on June 3. You can also pray it at any time for a sick person or someone in trial. Novena composed for Saintspedia, in the spirit of Church tradition. It is not an official liturgical text.

How to pray this novena

Each day, begin with the Sign of the Cross and entrust your intention to God. Read the meditation, say the prayer of the day, then an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be. End with: "Saint Maria Rosa Molas, pray for us."

Day 1: Born on Holy Thursday

Dolores was born in Reus on Holy Thursday 1815, the day the Church remembers Christ washing his disciples' feet. Her whole life would be service.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you who became a servant, teach me to serve without seeking to be served.

Act of the day: Do a humble, discreet service for a member of your family.

Day 2: Faith received in the family

Her deeply religious parents handed on the faith to her. In a blended family, she learned fraternal love.

Prayer: Lord, bless families, especially blended families. Make affection and peace grow among their members.

Act of the day: Pray for each member of your family by name.

Day 3: Ten years of waiting

At sixteen she wanted to consecrate herself to God, but her father refused. She waited ten years, without rebelling or giving up.

Prayer: Lord, when my plans must wait, keep me in trust and perseverance.

Act of the day: Entrust to God a desire that is slow to be fulfilled.

Day 4: At the bedside of the sick

At the hospital of Reus, Sister Maria Rosa nursed the sick and taught girls. She saw Christ in those who suffer.

Prayer: Lord, I entrust to you the sick and those who care for them. Give them strength and gentleness.

Act of the day: Call or visit a sick person.

Day 5: Stopping the bombs

In 1844 she went to the general who was bombarding Reus and persuaded him to spare the city. She was not afraid to speak up for the weakest.

Prayer: Lord, give peace to countries at war, and courage to those who defend civilians.

Act of the day: Pray for a country at war, and support a charity that helps its victims.

Day 6: The House of Mercy

In Tortosa, she directed a house for the poor and abandoned children. With her sisters, she made life more dignified and opened a free school.

Prayer: Lord, bless the houses that welcome the poor, orphans and the elderly.

Act of the day: Offer some of your time or goods to a shelter.

Day 7: Rooted in the Church

Discovering that her community had never been approved, she chose to start again under the authority of the Church. Obedience gave her work a future.

Prayer: Lord, keep me united to your Church, even when it asks me to begin again.

Act of the day: Pray for your bishop and for the pope.

Day 8: To console

In 1857 she founded the Sisters of Our Lady of Consolation. To console is to be present to someone who suffers and to give back hope.

Prayer: Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Consolation, teach me to console those I meet.

Act of the day: Take the time to listen to someone who is sad or grieving.

Day 9: A life given

Maria Rosa died in Tortosa on June 11, 1876, after giving her whole life to the poor. Her sisters continue her work today.

Prayer: Lord, through the intercession of Saint Maria Rosa Molas, grant me the grace I ask in this novena, if it is your will.

Act of the day: Attend Mass and give thanks for the sisters who serve the sick and children.

Closing prayer

Saint Maria Rosa Molas,
patient in waiting and daring in charity,
you consoled the sick, the poor and children.
Present to the Lord the intention I have entrusted to you.
Make me, in my turn, a witness of his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

You can also pray the prayer to Saint Maria Rosa Molas at any time, and read the life of Saint Maria Rosa Molas.

Credits and sources

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