



SISTER ROSALIE RENDU

Rosalie grew up during the French revolution in a family that not only reached out to people in need but hid priests. She was the eldest of four girls.

Rosalie felt called to religious life from a young age and at the age of 16 entered the Daughters of Charity. After a period of formation she was sent to serve in the Mouffetard district of Paris, a very poor area, and she remained there for the rest of her life. Rosalie learnt how to serve the poor there, visiting them in the homes and teaching girls.

After a few years Rosalie became the Sister Servant (local superior) and under her leadership a free clinic, a pharmacy, a school, an orphanage, a childcare centre, a youth club for young workers and a home for the elderly without resources were started. Rosalie also became the sister to whom young sisters were sent to learn how to serve the poor.

Rosalie was also a person who built many relationships and was able to draw on the resources of many rich people to support her work. She also taught many volunteers how to serve the poor. It was to her that Bailly sent Frederic and his young companions to learn how best to serve people in need.

When Rosalie died in 1856 thousands of people attended her funeral and to this day fresh flowers are regularly placed on her grave.

Her feast day is the 7th of February.

Prayer

Holy God, we thank you for the gift to us of Bl. Rosalie Rendu,
All -grant us the grace to be kind and loving.

For the poor we serve,
All -grant us the grace to bring your help and solace.

Provident God, provide what we need to give to the poor,
All-grant us the grace to lighten their burdens.

For all the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
All -grant us the grace to live the spirit of Bl. Rosalie Rendu.

Amen.