

Mid-Week Devotion

There is a saint for almost everything. Fisherman. Hairdressers. Carpenters. Housewives. And an obscure Italian teenager who stands in for all those who feel excluded.

Saint Rose was born in 13th century Italy. At age 3, the story goes, she raised her aunt from the dead. When I was three, my parents were still calling me “the Bean Bag” because I mostly sat in the middle of the living room.

By age 7, Saint Rose decided to live a life of poverty, chastity, and obedience in her parents’ house. She was, by all accounts, a remarkable child. By the age of 10, she had almost died, been miraculously cured, and believe she’d been empowered by the Virgin Mary to preach on the streets and public squares. She earned a fearsome reputation as a prophet.

She was desperate to join a religious order called the Poor Clares which, ironically, she was too poor to enter because she had no dowry. She loudly prophesied the religious order would regret it after her death, which they did when she died at 17 only a few years later.

She’s now the patron saint of her hometown, Viterbo, Italy, and every year, the town has a procession that honors her and the memory of people who don’t fit in.

Just because we are not always wanted doesn’t mean we don’t belong. Remember the promise of Saint Rose who declared “You will miss me.”

adapted from “Good Enough” by Kate Bowler

Manna from Heaven

When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Exodus 16:15a (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	I	G	B	D	X	U	T	M	L	P	W	V	A	E	Y	C	O	S	Z	R	J	H	K	Q	N

1. 19-8-14-21-13-15 _____
2. 3-21-7-9-4-10-15 _____
3. 23-15-14-13-15-26 _____
4. 5-15-19-15-21-8 _____
5. 5-15-14-8-23 _____
6. 3-14-8-23-15-21 _____
7. 3-21-18-7-26-5 _____
8. 4-21-15-14-5 _____

BREAD	HEAVEN	GROUND	STARVE
GRUMBLE	GATHER	DESERT	DEATH