

**LIFE OF SISTER ST. RITA OF CASCIA
OF THE ORDER OF ST. AUGUSTINE.
ADVOCATE OF THE IMPOSSIBLE.
MODEL OF MAIDENS, WIVES,
MOTHERS, WIDOWS AND NUNS**

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JOSEPH SICARDO & DAN J. MURPHY

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J. F. GREEN, O. S. A.,

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GEORGE W. MUNDELEIN, D. D.,

Archbishop, Chicago.

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To the
Very Rev. J. F. Green, O. S. A.,
whose pious and untiring zeal has
done so much to spread devotion
to St. Rita, O. S. A., of Cascia, this
volume is affectionately dedicated
By the Translator.

In compliance with the decree of Urban VIII., we hereby assert that we do not intend to attach to the circumstances narrated in this Life any significance other than that belonging to historical facts.

Dan J. Murphy, O. S. A.

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PREFACE

The "Lives of the Saints" are only a part, but a precious part of the Library of triumphant Christianity. The catalogue of the "Lives of the Saints" is a long and holy one, so holy, indeed, that it is called a litany, and is used as one of the public prayers of the Catholic Church. On the shelves of this library are found books whose pages relate not only the lives of Jesus Christ, the King of Saints, and of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, the Queen of Saints, but also the story of those pious and holy men and women whose lives were a signal proof that "God is wonderful in His saints." The Church is a faithful custodian of the "Lives of the Saints," of those books which contain the wonderful and glorious deeds of her children who have lived and died in the odor of sanctity. And she looks on every "Life of a Saint" as a guide book pointing out the way to heaven to all Christians who are only travelers on the way to their true home. After the Catechism there is no book more precious to the eyes of Mother Church than a "Life of a Saint." Every age of the Church has had its illustrious saint or saints, and the study of the life of any saint will reveal the providence of God in the government of the world, and especially the divine economy with regard to the children of His Church. Not only are the saints, while living on earth, the glory and ornaments of their birth-lands, but after death their real

characters become better known, and Mother Church bestows upon them the highest honors within her power, and, at her command, an entire world gives them their due worship and veneration. It is the dearest wish of Mother Church that her children should frequently read the lives of the saints; by so doing they gradually become acquainted with a select society to which, in a great measure, they will be forced to raise the standard of their daily lives. Our Holy Father St. Augustine is a striking example of what the reading of the lives of the saints may do. A friend of his, Alipius by name, gave him the life of St. Anthony the Abbot. Augustine read it, and was so extremely affected by what he read, that it was one main cause of his conversion. Looking down the long calendar of saints, glancing carefully over the Church's long honor-list of men and women, whose names were talismanic in their days, we find no name crowned with a greater halo of glory and veneration, than that of Sister St. Rita, the humble Augustinian nun of Cascia, now worshiped and venerated under the singular title of the *Saint of the Impossible*. It is more than 450 years since St. Rita departed this life to be united forever to her Lord and spouse Jesus Christ, and yet her name is still held in benediction, not only among the faithful of Italy, her native country, but also among the faithful of the rest of Europe, who vie with the people of South and North America, in honoring and venerating our illustrious Saint. Among the many magnificent "Lives of St. Rita" written by the Italian and Spanish Augustinians, we prefer that written by our brother Religious, Father Joseph Sicardo. As his book has had a large propaganda in Spain, the Philippine Islands and in Spanish America, we have hopes