

# STATUTE

## ART.1

The Santa Rita of Cascia International Award has been set off to celebrate Rita on the day dedicated to her (May 22).

## ART. 2

The award will be given to 3 women who in a variety of ways have practised the values that were embodied by Rita.

## ART.3

The prize, which is of high spiritual value, will consist of a scroll painted by a well-known contemporary artist.

## ART.4

The prize will be awarded by a special committee composed of the following:

- The Archbishop of Spoleto-Norcia, or his representative
- The Father General of the Order of St Augustine or his representative
- The Provincial Father of the Augustinians of Umbria or his representative
- The Abbess of the Monastery of St Rita or her representative
- The Rector of the Basilica of St Rita
- A representative of the Roccaporena Santa Rita Charitable Foundation
- The Director of Tourism for Umbria or his representative
- The Mayor of Cascia or his representative
- The Director of the Valnerina Cascia Tourist Development Office
- The Director of Province of Perugia Heritage, or his representative

## ART. 5

The Committer will meet in Cascia every year on 16 February.

## ART. 6

When awarding the prize the Committer will be bound to refer to the life and example of St Rita, and thus the prize will go to:

## ART.7

Women of any age, social status, nationality or religion who have made their mission the dignity of the human person, and the defence of its rights and duties ... women, who like Saint Rita, have espoused the cause of justice, peace, solidarity, the family, children, the poor and fugitives.

## ART. 8

Married women, in memory of the fact that Rita, at the very young age of 15/16 married Paolo of Fernando Mancini, her husband, as was usual at that time, being chosen by her parents. Her daily life as a married woman was lived largely inside the home, and devoted to domestic tasks . It followed the rhythm of the seasons and the round of religious festivals.

Although the life she lived as a woman was different in many ways from that of women today, Saint Rita remains relevant and attractive because the difficulties of her married life with Paolo are familiar to many couples: separations, difficulties in understanding each other, infidelities and incompatibility are indeed everyday occurrences. Rita was not a miserable wife who simply resigned herself to her fate. She was intelligent and lively, living her femininity to the full. Through small everyday things she built a bond of deep understanding with her husband. The Cascia saint who was a married woman is a great beacon of hope for the families of today, and for every woman, even when she finds herself in complicated and unhappy circumstances.

## ART. 9

a) Mothers, remembering that Santa Rita's human experience as a mother is similar to that of so many parents in today's world. When she was bringing up her children Rita had little support from her husband, and little from society or the church – the latter being worlds torn by hatred and power struggles. Like so many mothers in today's world, Rita had the unhappy knowledge that Giangiacomo and Paolomaria were following bad examples, and based their judgement of people and things on fashionable ideas rather than on the Gospel.

b) Mothers who experience the grief of seeing their own child addicted to drugs, or involved in crime – who can see the similarity of their suffering to that of Rita seeing her sons consumed with hatred of the men who killed their father.

The courage of the Saint of Roccaporena is highly instructive for every parent who contemplates how she struggled by means of prayer, and every other thing possible, to save her sons from the destructive evil of the blood feud. She performed the ultimate sacrifice a mother's heart can make.

## ART.10

Widows, because Rita was a widow of peace. We can, and should compare (without fear of misrepresentation, or

exaggeration) her situation to that of a modern woman whose husband or other family member has been killed by terrorists, the Mafia, or ordinary criminals.

Santa Rita teaches us, and not by words, that peace between families, social groups and nations is possible. She is relevant to us because she built peace – she desired peace, and pursued it by the way of sincere forgiveness and patient discussion. She is relevant to us because she calls on us to free ourselves from solitude by serving the needy and making communion with God in prayer, as she did in Roccaporena in the leper house and on the mountain side.

## ART.11

Nuns, because Saint Rita devoted herself to God for 40 years, she spent in the cloistered monastery of Saint Mary Magdalena in Cascia. In the last 15 years , she bore in her forehead the stigma, fulfilling in her body the sufferings of Jesus. Being an Augustinian nun, Rita tried to satisfy her heart anxiety, that is wish and ability to hold God, therefore as it was written in a document in 1457 “ everything is given to Him”. In the Monastery , she did not research the escape from the world and from her own responsibilities, but a wider promise for peace and reconciliation.

## ART.12

The recommendations to award the Prize made by dioceses, Parishes Associations, single person should arrive within January 31st of every year to one of these addresses:

- RETTORE DELLA BASILICA  
Viale Santa Rita, 12 - Padri Agostiniani  
06043 Cascia (Pg) - Italia -  
Tel. Uff.: 0743.75091 - Fax: 0743/76476  
e-mail : basilsantarita@libero.it
- MAYOR of Cascia  
06043 - CASCIA (PG).
- ABBESS of Saint Rita Monastery  
06043 CASCIA (PG).