

St. Galla of Rome

April 6



April 6

St. Galla of Rome

d. 550 • Italy

A little over a year after being married, Galla's husband died. Even though she was young and wealthy, Galla refused to marry again. She wanted to give her life to God and to serve others. So she came up with a plan. She made her appearance as ugly as she could so that her suitors would stop courting her!

Pleased that her ploy had worked, Galla founded a convent and a hospital near St. Peter's Basilica on Vatican Hill. Many good women joined Galla at the hospital and the convent, and together they served the poor and the sick in the city of Rome.

One day, Galla met a little girl who could not hear and could not speak. Her heart felt pity for the girl, and the Holy Spirit moved Galla to help her. Galla said a prayer to Jesus and blessed some water. Then she gave the girl a glass of the water to drink.

As the girl tasted the cool, clear water, she was healed of her ailments. Her ears picked up noises, loud and faint. Her tongue loosened. She haltingly pronounced sounds.

Galla smiled and began to tell the girl that it was Jesus who had healed her. And so, the first words that the little girl heard were about the loving God who had died to heal her of her sins.

Galla continued to serve the poor and the sick until she herself became sick with cancer. She offered her suffering to Jesus and died a holy death.

St. Galla, help me to listen when God asks me to help others!