

Saint Fabiola of Rome, Laywoman  
founded first Western Christian hospitals (died 399 AD)



[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=634](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=634)

"A Christian Roman woman of considerable wealth, Fabiola sought and received a civil divorce from her husband, a man who had treated her cruelly. Afterward, she decided to remarry, even though her first husband was still alive, in direct defiance of The Church's teaching.

After this second husband died, she became deeply contrite. She appeared at the doors of the Lateran Basilica in sackcloth and ashes, and Pope Saint Siricius permitted her to reenter The Fold.

From this time, Fabiola's life was one of penitence and charity.

She went out to the streets and byways of Rome, collected all the sick and ailing persons she could find, and gathered them into a hospital - the first ever in the West.

Seeing her fervor, the great Doctor of The Church Saint Jerome drew her into the circle of women to whom he gave spiritual direction. For a time, she stayed near Jerome in the Holy Land. Then, desiring to continue her charitable efforts, she came back to Italy, where she eventually founded a hospital at Porto Romano.

Although Jerome, a dyed-in-the-wool contemplative, was sometimes perplexed by Fabiola's intense activity, he declared her 'a chaste matron and a Christian woman' and wrote two treatises for her.

When Fabiola died in 399, she was widely mourned among the Romans. Eternal Father, through the intercession of Saint Fabiola, attune my heart to the cry of the poor."\* Saint Fabiola, pray for us!

PSALM 34:1-9

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFyX5Mn4fgM&list=RDd\\_Ahm3jDvdQ&index=4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFyX5Mn4fgM&list=RDd_Ahm3jDvdQ&index=4)

Savior JESUS CHRIST, Son of GOD, Who redeems His saints!

1 I will bless The LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make her boast in The LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

3 O magnify The LORD with me, and let us exalt His Name together.

4 I sought The LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

5 They looked unto Him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

Savior JESUS CHRIST, Son of GOD, Who redeems His saints!

6 This poor man cried, and The LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The Angel of The LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.

8 O taste and see that The LORD is Good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.

9 O fear The LORD, ye His saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him.

\*["Saint Fabiola." The Magnificat, 10/12/2021. Saints Who Transformed the Culture, p 169.]