

**A Story of Redemptive Suffering featuring Saint Rafqa  
With Sr. Orianne Pietra Rene**

**Reflective Questions**

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us,” Rom. 8:18.

1. St. Rafqa experienced the great trauma of seeing people killed before her eyes. But she did not allow the trauma to turn her to bitterness, despair, or hatred. Instead, she turned to joy. What traumas have stayed with you in your life? What sort of thinking and behavior have they led you to?
2. St. Rafqa was inspired by the Holy Spirit to ask God for an additional suffering that she could offer as a gift and unite to the Cross. Most of us are not called to ask for additional suffering, but we each have many sufferings we can offer up in our lives. What sufferings can you offer as a gift to God and unite to the Cross?
3. St. Rafqa suffered from many physical ailments later in life, but she became the most joyful and kind sister in the convent despite these sufferings. How can you work practicing joy and kindness in the midst of suffering?
4. Sr. Orianne shares that her own family members are descended from the Druze people whom St. Rafqa saw attacking and murdering. St. Rafqa prayed for the Druze people’s conversion and offered up her suffering for them. Many of Sr. Orianne’s family members were brought to conversion, it would seem as a result of St. Rafqa’s prayers and sacrifices. How can this story influence your views on your own sufferings?