

Saint Therese of Lisieux



Saint Therese of Lisieux was born on January 2, 1873 in Alencon, France. At the age of fourteen, Therese asked to enter the Carmelite monastery in Lisieux as soon as possible. After the local bishop refused, she travelled to Rome with her father and appealed to Pope Leo XIII for permission. On New Year's Day 1888, permission was finally granted. On April 9, 1888, at the age of fifteen, Therese entered the Carmelite monastery in Lisieux. She took the religious name Sister Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face. During her time as a sister, she was known as an ordinary, good, reliable, and talented nun.

Therese is most known for her "Little Way." She spoke not of doing great things, but of small things with great love. She saw herself as a child who lived in complete dependence on God. Therese saw herself as a tiny flower in the garden of God. Therese requested to become a missionary and was about to leave for Vietnam when she became ill and so could not go. Therese died on September 30, 1897 when she was only twenty-four years old. She gazed at her crucifix and said, "My God...I love you."

Pope Pius XI canonised Saint Therese of Lisieux on May 17, 1925. In 1994, Pope St. John Paul II named her co-patroness of France with St. Joan of Arc. Saint Therese's feast day is October 1.

A Morning Offering written by Saint Therese

O my God! I offer You all my actions this day for the intentions and for the glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I desire to sanctify every beat of my heart, my every thought, my simplest works, by uniting them to His infinite merits; and I wish to make reparation for my sins by casting them into the furnace of His merciful love.

O my God! I ask You for myself and for those whom I hold dear, the grace to fulfil perfectly Your holy will, to accept for love of You the joys and sorrows of this passing life, so that we may one day be united together in heaven for all eternity.

Amen.