

October 1, 2020

Happy 1st day of October! Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all of our October

parishioners!



Full Moon today! Appearing "opposite" the Sun (in Earth-based longitude) at 5:05 p.m. EDT. The Moon will appear full for about three days around this time, from Wednesday morning through Saturday morning. As the full Moon closest to the autumnal equinox (the end of summer and start of fall), this is the Harvest Moon. During the harvest season farmers sometimes need to work late into the night by the light of the Moon. The Harvest Moon is an old European name with the Oxford English Dictionary giving 1706 as the year of its first published use.

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100120.cfm>

2. **The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:** Memorial of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

One of the best loved saints of modern times, St Therese died at the age of 24 and yet was named a Doctor of the Church. Her "little way" has influenced countless people who have been inspired by this young saint.

The National Shrine and Museum of St. Therese in Darien, Illinois is where people come to learn about St. Therese and her life, to honor her, and to pray to her and be with her. The Museum is a rich treasury of relics and memorabilia of St. Therese. The collection is the largest of her personal effects outside Lisieux, France, the home of her Carmelite convent.

3. Quote(s) of the Day: St. Therese, a young saint, dedicated herself to the Lord. See a few of her thoughts below.

Prayer is an aspiration of the heart, it is a simple glance directed to heaven, it is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy; finally, it is something great, supernatural, which expands my soul and unites me to Jesus. *St. Therese of Lisieux*

The value of life does not depend upon the place we occupy. It depends upon the way we occupy that place. *St. Therese of Lisieux*

You cannot be half a saint; you must be a whole saint or no saint at all. *St. Therese of Lisieux*

Parish Office Communication

Thanks be to God for a beautiful day today!  
light tonight!



Don't forget to check out God's nite

Have a great Thursday!

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### St Therese of Lisieux



She died at the age of 24, believing that her life was really just beginning for God, promising to spend her heaven doing good on earth.

Therese Martin, the youngest of nine children, was born in Alencon France in 1873. Her father, Louis, was a successful watchmaker and jeweler. Her mother Zeligue Guerin, built a cottage industry in lace making, beginning in the village of Alencon, which is known for its delicate lace.

Four of Therese's siblings died at a young age; the remaining five girls eventually all entered the convent, so deep was their call to sanctity. Four became contemplative Carmelite Nuns at the Lisieux Carmel, and one became a Visitation sister.

Therese wasn't always a nun nor was she always a saint. She was a very regular little girl, who was rather sensitive. In fact, she seemed like a spoiled little girl, who would stomp her feet and have a temper tantrum if she did not get her own way. After the death of her mother, while Therese was only 4, her father, who referred to her as "my little queen" would give her anything she wanted to keep her happy. Louis Martin was protective of his daughters. He wouldn't allow them to read the newspapers, fearful that it would make them too worldly. But the mischievous girls would steal away with the newspaper while papa napped and carefully return it before he awoke.

At a young age, this precocious child wanted everything. She would get more than she bargained for. Sick physically and emotionally, she was healed by Our Lady of the Smile at the age of 11. She experienced a profound conversion on Christmas Eve, 1886, at the age of 13.

She felt a call to enter Carmel as a contemplative Nun, so that she could give herself totally to Jesus. But she was too young. Appeals to the Mother Superior and Priest Chaplain yielded: "when you are old enough -16".

Not content, Therese and her father appealed to the Bishop. Not getting the response she wanted, she appealed directly and personally to the Pope while on a parish pilgrimage to Rome. Therese had always said: "I want everything"- and she usually got it.

Persistence paid off. Therese was allowed to enter the Lisieux Carmel at the age of 15 – her father lived to see her professed a Carmelite Nun. She took the religious name of Sister Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. God's spirit worked powerfully in Therese, so open was she to Divine Love.

Still dreaming of taking on the world as a priest and missionary, she wrestled with her vocation and place in the Church. Finally, she came to realize that her "vocation is love." The love of God was the energy source for the Church and fulfillment of the human heart and longing.

Despite her desire for the dramatic and expansive, Therese developed a simple spirituality, based on childlike trust and confidence in God. The spirituality of her

“little way” was not about extraordinary things – but rather about doing simple things of life well and with extraordinary love.

She believed and taught that “everything is grace” – God’s face and presence could be experienced in every person and situation of our lives if we just attend with love and expectancy.

Her struggle, like ours, is to be where God places us in the real-life situations of our lives. Therese’s is a hands-on, challenging and focused spirituality. This is what made Therese shine, and why she has been declared a Doctor of the Church. Her spirituality is simple, childlike, profound and human – it is refreshing in our confusing and complicated age.

Experiencing the dark night of the senses and spirit refined the power and energy of this young, precocious Carmelite. Her poems and plays reflect her struggle to give all to God. Her love became surrender, as she slowly died of tuberculosis. Her superior asked her to write down her reflections, which became her autobiography, “Story of a Soul.”

She died at the age of 24, believing that her life was really just beginning for God, promising to spend her heaven doing good on earth. Her promised “shower of roses” began and has become a torrent in the Church ever since.

She was canonized by the Church in 1925, when she would have been only 52 years old. In October 1997, Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church, because of the impact and challenge her spirituality has had on the lives of so many of God’s children.

For further information on St. Therese, her life, and her works, please visit the Society of the Little Flower website.

*Source: saint-therese.org*