

Words of St. Therese:

“Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing.”

“Be not afraid to tell Jesus you love Him, even though it be without feeling, this is the way to oblige Him to help you, and carry you like a child too feeble to walk.”

“For one pain endured with joy, we will love the good God more forever.”

A novice was grieving about her numerous distractions during prayer. “I too, have many,” replied St. Therese of the child Jesus, “but I accept all for the love of the good God, even the most extravagant thoughts that come into my head.”

September Memorials

Hosts in grateful remembrance of **Mary Sweeney**.

Wine in memory of **Beverly Dupuis** donated by a friend

Sanctuary lamp in memory of **William Calnan**

donated by his loving wife and children.

Oil in the Altar Candles in memory of **Mary Ann Unanue**

FINANCES The average total collection for the 4:00 and 5:30 Masses during the month of September was \$1,233 dollars.

Thank you for your generous support of the Chapel—n—the-Mall

A little true anecdote: Last week when I entered the local bank with the weekly deposit, the clerk saw me coming and called out to her supervisor. Should I call Mr. So and So that he can come back now. The Carmelites are here and we now have plenty of one dollar bills. And that was before she had even looked into the deposit bag!!!

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We Carmelites often refer to the month of October as the month of St. Therese, the patroness of our Chapel. Her feast day is today, October 1st and sort of gives a special



color and direction to all this month. I thought that I would dedicate this month's bulletin to her with the hope that you will come to know her better and understand why we appreciate her as much as we do. We all marvel in the life of this saint. From a petulant, spoiled and pampered child she came to be a truly great saint, not only because of the degree of her spiritual growth but for the simplicity of the “way” that she discovered and how she has become a beacon for all of us on our journey towards eternity.

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It is interesting to note that she was only in the convent for seven years and died when she was 24 years old, after having lived as cloistered Carmelite for less than ten years. She never went on missions, never founded a religious order, never performed great works. The only book she wrote, published after her death, was a brief edited version of her journal called "Story of a Soul." (Collections of her letters and restored versions of her journals have been published recently.) But within 28 years of her death, the public demand was so great that she was canonized.

Therese continued to worry about how she could achieve holiness in the life she led. She didn't want to just be good, she wanted to be a saint. She thought there must be a way for people living hidden, little lives like hers. "I have always wanted to become a saint. Unfortunately when I have compared myself with the saints, I have always found that there is the same difference between the saints and me as there is between a mountain whose summit is lost in the clouds and a humble grain of sand trodden underfoot by passers-by. Instead of being discouraged, I told myself: God would not make me wish for something impossible and so, in spite of my littleness, I can aim at being a saint. It is impossible for me to grow bigger, so I put up with myself as I am, with all my countless faults. But I will look for some means of going to heaven by a little way which is very short and very straight, a little way that is quite new.

"We live in an age of inventions. We need no longer climb laboriously up flights of stairs; in well-to-do houses there are lifts. And I was determined to find a lift to carry me to Jesus, for I was far too small to climb the steep stairs of perfection. So I sought in holy Scripture some idea of what this life I wanted would be, and I read these words: "Whosoever is a little one, come to me." It is your arms, Jesus, that are the lift to carry me to heaven. And so there is no need for me to grow up: I must stay little and become less and less."

She worried about her vocation: "I feel in me the vocation of the Priest. I have the vocation of the Apostle. Martyrdom was the dream of my youth and this dream has grown with me. Considering the mystical body of the Church, I desired to see myself in them all. Charity gave me the key to my vocation. I understood that the Church had a Heart and that this Heart was burning with love. I understood that Love comprised all vocations, that Love was everything, that it embraced all times and places... in a word, that it was eternal! Then in the excess of my delirious joy, I cried out: O Jesus, my Love... my vocation, at last I have found it... My vocation is Love!"

When an antagonist was elected prioress, new political suspicions and plottings sprang up. The concern over the Martin sisters perhaps was not exaggerated. In this small convent they now made up one-fifth of the population. Despite this and the fact that Therese was a permanent novice they put her in charge of the other novices.

Then in 1896, she coughed up blood. She kept working without telling anyone until she became so sick a year later everyone knew it. Worst of all she had lost her joy and confidence and felt she would die young without leaving anything behind. Pauline had already had her writing down her memories for journal and now she wanted her to continue -- so they would have something to circulate on her life after her death.

Her pain was so great that she said that if she had not had faith she would have taken her own life without hesitation. But she tried to remain smiling and so well that some thought she was only pretending to be ill. Her one dream was the work she would do after her death, helping those on earth. "I will return," she said. "My heaven will be spent on September 30, 1897 at old. She herself felt it was wed her to die at exactly always felt that she had a priest and felt God let been a man so that she suffer.

After she died, the convent went back to normal. One nun commented that there was nothing to say about Therese. But

Therese's writings (and heavily edited them, unfortunately) and sent 2000 copies to other convents. But Therese's "little way" of trusting in Jesus to make her holy and relying on small daily sacrifices instead of great deeds appealed to the thousands of Catholics and others who were trying to find holiness in ordinary lives. Within two years, the Martin family had to move because her notoriety was so great and by 1925 she had been canonized.

Therese of Lisieux is one of the patron saints of the missions, not because she ever went anywhere, but because of her special love of the missions, and the prayers and letters she gave in support of missionaries. This is reminder to all of us who feel we can do nothing, that it is the little things that keep God's kingdom growing.



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