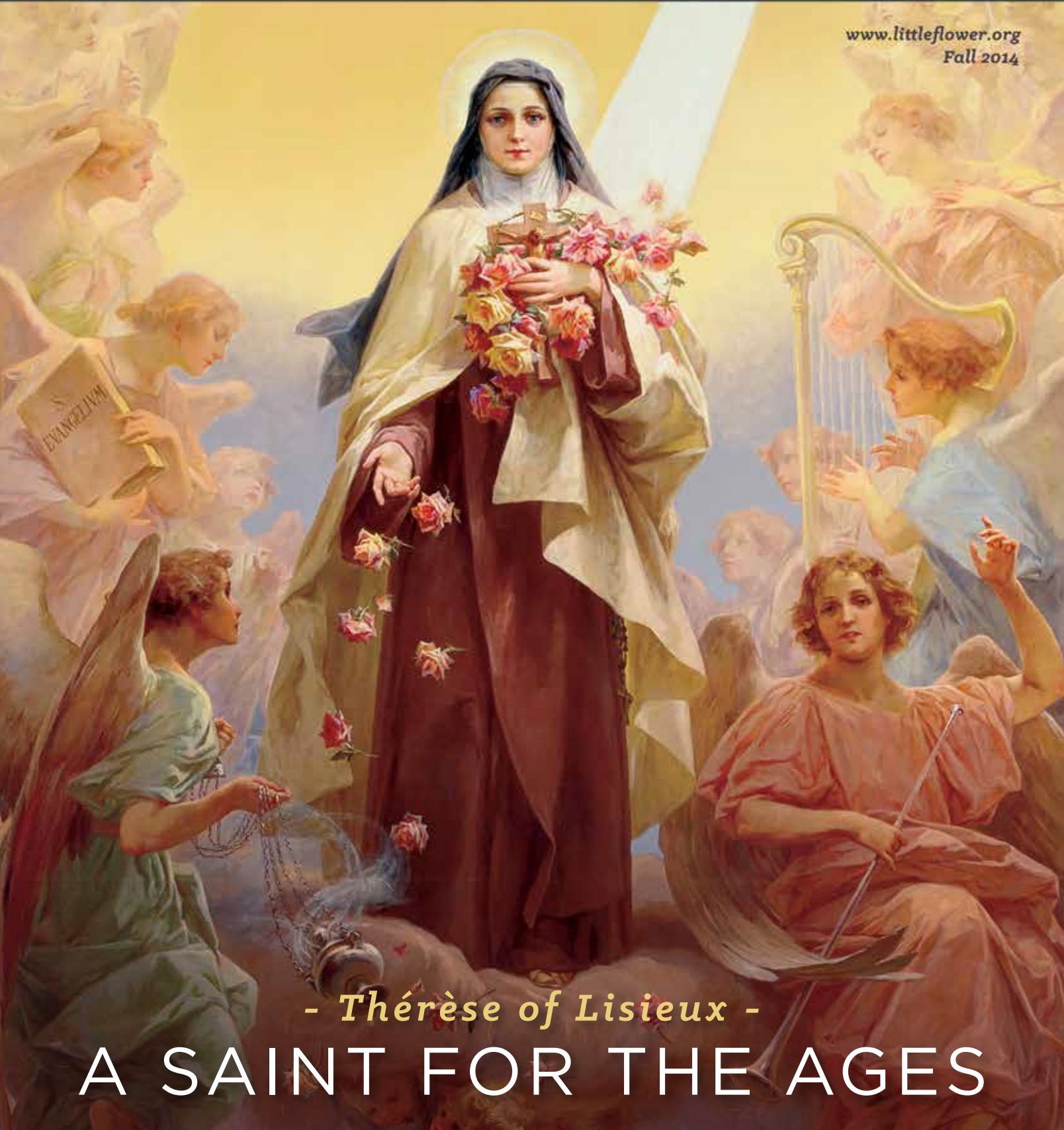


# Between Friends

A publication for the Friends of the Society of

the Little Flower, Darien, Illinois, and Canada

[www.littleflower.org](http://www.littleflower.org)  
Fall 2014



*- Thérèse of Lisieux -*

## A SAINT FOR THE AGES

## Thérèse's life and spirituality

Thérèse would be 141 years old, if she were alive today. She is eternally young in God's heaven. Her spirit and presence are still so alive today. She touches people's hearts and lives. She deepens our faith and trust in God's presence.

Every day, hundreds of letters arrive here at the Society of the Little Flower, giving testimony of her relevance and power in people's lives. I am often moved to tears with the powerful and precious ways she has touched people, especially in times of need, pain, panic, frustration, and hopelessness. She sends signs, often accompanied by a rose, to let people know they have been heard by God - and that God is working on their petitions and intentions - the deepest longings of their hearts.



BY FATHER BOB COLARES, O. CARM.

It is such a comfort to listen to peoples' stories - of the consolation and trust they receive when they put their intentions, hopes, and hurts in St. Thérèse's hands. They may not always get what they want, but they

know they get what they need, in God's plan. Thérèse's greatest teaching is "everything is grace!" She reminds us that God's presence and fingerprints are all over us. She inspires us in faith to trust that whatever is happening, especially the disappointments, pains, and heartaches of life, God is present and working for goodness.

At times, when I get scared or wonder where God is in some frustration or heartache of life, I remember that one of her great teachings sprang from the darkest period of her life. It was after about 16 months of an internal dark night of the spirit, when she felt no consolation - and when she could no longer receive Holy Communion because of the disease killing her - that she taught: "everything is grace." Instead of being frustrated or angry, she admitted: "Now my longing for You is even more!" She allowed the loss to transform her, not embitter or harden her heart and spirit.

St. Thérèse is most relevant today, in a world where we so easily become stressed, worried, and overwhelmed with disappointments and the wounds of life. Her life is witness to a powerful spirituality of trust and presence. We, her friends, are called to follow her "little way" of trust and confidence. Somehow, it lessens the burdens of life, knowing that Jesus is carrying the burdens with us. The Little Flower is such a good friend - a true "go-to" companion in our world today. ■



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## Fall 2014

**A publication for the friends of the Society of the Little Flower**

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# Devotion to the saints

*“Passing on traditions is part of what families do. One of the greatest traditions parents and grandparents can pass on is that of faith and devotion. For our family, it is devotion to St. Thérèse that is central to our lives.”*



In the little Italian neighborhood where I grew up, names meant something. We usually received the name of a relative or friend who would serve as our earthly guardian angel.

My middle name is Therese; I was named after my Aunt Theresa. She took her role as my guardian angel very seriously. Aunt Theresa served as a second mother, keeping me in line when I needed some direction and sharing hugs and kisses when I needed some love and care. She was always there for me.

It was my Aunt Theresa who introduced me to the Little Flower. She had a huge picture of St. Thérèse in one of the rooms in her home, and would often tell me stories about the saint after whom we were both named. We prayed novenas to St. Thérèse. When we would go to church together, we knelt before Thérèse’s statue, side by side. It was because of my aunt that St. Thérèse became an important part of my life.

Tradition. Perhaps it’s an old-fashioned word, but tradition carries so much meaning for me. To this day, many of my family’s traditions are carried on in my home and are now held dear by my sons. Traditions are sacred.

My devotion to Thérèse is a tradition that has kept me going in so many ways through the years. I often ask myself, “Where would I be without my patron saint?” Perhaps it goes without saying, but my sons now also know of her powerful intercession; she plays an important role in their lives as well.

Passing on traditions is part of what families do. One of the greatest traditions parents and grandparents can pass on is that of faith and devotion. For our family, it is devotion to St. Thérèse that is central to our lives. It has been almost 90 years since Thérèse was declared a saint, but she is as alive today as she was when she walked this earth.

St. Thérèse truly is a saint for the ages. ■



BY MARY LAMBERT

## SHARE YOUR STORY

I look forward to hearing from friends of St. Thérèse! Please take time to send me your story of how our Little Flower has touched your life:

## MARY T. LAMBERT

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## RENOVATION OF THE CARMEL OF LISIEUX

By Father Bob  
Colaresi, O.Carm.

After many years of work, the renovation of St. Thérèse's home, the Carmel of Lisieux, has come to a close. Today, it looks just like it did in her day. As you know, the strong weather of Normandy and the water on which the convent was built in 1838 had caused significant deterioration. Mold was a major culprit, penetrating some portions of the walls and making parts of the building essentially unlivable.

Through the generosity of so many Friends of St. Thérèse and the Carmel of Lisieux, in France, Europe, and in North America, the long renovation process, begun around 2002, has been completed. The Carmelite nuns there are able to move back into the original monastery and use it well. The infrastructure has been renewed so

the nuns are living, praying, and working in a structurally sound place. The ventilation and heating systems have been totally updated. The bricks have been replaced and the windows on her one wing have been renewed. I think Thérèse is smiling at seeing her religious home looking like the place in which she lived those last nine years of her life.

Even more importantly, I know she is smiling at the generosity of her many friends, especially those members of the Society of the Little Flower who extended their generosity to help with this important project of renewal - to preserve her legacy so that Thérèse's spirituality could spread and her Carmelite contemplative life could be lived safely by her Carmelite Sisters in Lisieux. ■

## THE CARMELITES AND THE SOCIETY OF THE LITTLE FLOWER

More than 130 men from the Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary gathered recently in Niagara Falls to take part in their 42nd Provincial Chapter. The meeting -which takes place every three years - was an opportunity for prayer and renewing fraternal ties under the theme “I have called you into the land of Carmel.” (Jeremiah 2:7) The meeting also had a more practical aspect in that it was an opportunity for the province to elect new leadership for the next three years.

The province elected the following men into leadership roles in the community:

### Prior Provincial

Father William Harry, O.Carm

### Vice Prior Provincial

Father Joseph Atcher, O.Carm

### Provincial Councilors

1st Councilor: Father Sam Citero, O.Carm

2nd Councilor: Father Myron Judy, O.Carm

3rd Councilor: Father Emilio Rodriguez, O.Carm

4th Councilor: Father Paul Henson, O.Carm

Please pray for this new leadership team as they chart the Carmelites’ course over the next three years.

The Society of the Little Flower was founded in 1923 by a Carmelite, Father Albert Dolan. Father Albert was a gifted preacher and prolific writer, and has been credited with introducing St. Thérèse to millions of people. From its humble beginning, the Society has grown considerably over the years, touching hundreds of thousands of souls.

Donations to the Society further devotion to our patroness, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. They also support the work of the Carmelites in many areas, including educating seminarians, serving the poor in parishes and ministries across the globe, providing spiritual direction through retreat work, and caring for the community’s retired priests and religious.



### The following mission statement captures the heart of this Carmelite community:

*The Carmelites of the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, in allegiance to Jesus Christ, live in a prophetic and contemplative stance of prayer, common life, and service. Inspired by Elijah and Mary and informed by the Carmelite Rule, we give witness to an 800-year-old tradition of spiritual transformation in the United States, Canada, Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador.*

### Prayer of the Carmelite Family

*Tender-hearted God,  
renew the gift of the Holy Spirit within  
the Carmelite Family  
as we seek to live following in the  
footsteps of Jesus Christ.  
Teach us, like Mary, to contemplate your  
wisdom.  
Fill us, like Elijah, with zeal for your  
glory.  
Inspire us, like Simon Stock, to ponder  
your will in times of change.  
Like Teresa, John, Thérèse and Titus,  
may we live always in your presence,  
and make us prophets of your  
Kingdom.  
May our lives of prayer, community, and  
service  
be a sign to the world that God lives, in  
whose presence we stand.  
This grace we ask in Jesus’ name.  
Amen.*

*(Composed in 2003 to celebrate the 550th anniversary of the papal bull Cum Nulla)*





## The joy of accelerating bequests

BY DAN PRITCHARD

Many friends of the Little Flower have remembered her Society in their estate plans as a way to continue the gifts they have given during their lifetimes. Over and over, we hear the concern that future generations may not know of the tender, loving compassion St. Thérèse has for those who turn to her, and they want to ensure our important work will remain a vital mission of the Church.

What is interesting is that some of our friends have found that “accelerating” their bequests – by making that gift today instead of through their estate plan – can provide many advantages.

### *Why should you consider accelerating your bequest into a gift during your life?*

- While it is true that making a charitable gift through a will or living trust qualifies for an estate tax charitable deduction, the vast majority of estates are not subject to such a tax. Only about 4,000 estates will exceed the \$5.34 million

sheltered from tax in 2014. Accelerating a bequest entitles you to an immediate income tax charitable deduction, which can offer you tax savings today.

- An attractive option for some is to take their intended bequest and use it to create an income stream for life. The assets will eventually pass to the Society of the Little Flower, much as if you had left a bequest in a will or living trust. But you will be entitled to an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of what you transfer. And if your gift is funded with appreciated stock, you can avoid a portion of the capital gains tax that you would owe if you sold the shares. The news gets even better: a sizable percentage of the income you receive may be tax free or taxed at lower capital gains tax rates.
- You will be able to see the good your thoughtful gift will do.
- Accelerating your bequest also gives the Society the opportunity to thank you now for your generosity. ■

# The high cost of **NOT** planning your estate

*Is there a cost to planning an estate? Sure. Estate planning attorneys charge for drafting wills and living trusts. But there's also a cost if you don't plan your estate.*

## What are some of the costs of an unplanned estate?

- State laws dictate how assets will be distributed for those passing away without wills or living trusts; they are called intestates. These rigid rules don't take into consideration any special needs of family members, and they don't provide for distributions to friends or favorite charities such as the Society of the Little Flower.
- Probate costs can be increased. In a well-planned estate, probate costs – along with delays in distributing assets – can be reduced. Bond for the estate administrator can be waived.
- Very few estates are subject to estate tax, but some assets carry a hidden income tax burden at death. Retirement accounts such as IRAs and 401(k) plans are subject to income tax when funds are withdrawn. The untaxed interest in U.S. savings bonds also may be subject



to income tax in either the estate or to the person receiving the bonds. In a thoughtful estate plan, income tax can be avoided by directing that these tax-burdened assets pass to a charity, such as Little Flower, which pays no tax.

- Some beneficiaries are not mature enough to handle a sudden windfall. With proper estate planning, a trustee can be named to handle investments and to make distributions under certain circumstances or when beneficiaries reach a specified age.

Little Flower encourages everyone to have a thoughtful estate plan – one that is drafted for their unique family and financial situation. If you already have an estate plan, review it regularly to see that it still reflects your wishes. It's a good idea to have your attorney review your estate plan whenever there have been major changes in your life (death of a beneficiary, marriage, birth of a child or grandchild). We also ask that, whether you are having your first estate plan drafted or updating an existing plan, you consider adding a thoughtful bequest to benefit the Society of the Little Flower. We would be happy to discuss the many ways you can help us continue our mission to inspire future generations. ■

**Our Office of Planned Giving** would be pleased to work with you and your advisers to craft a gift that provides you the greatest satisfaction. Please call Dan or Janice in our Planned Giving Office at **888.996.1212** for more information on the joy of accelerating your bequest to benefit the Society.

# HER WORDS — and — PRESENCE make a difference TODAY



BY FATHER BOB COLARESI, O. CARM.

*Every time I go into a church, anywhere, I look for St. Thérèse's statue. Earlier in the summer, I was in Ireland and we saw her in every church. I love the variety of statues and the different ways she is depicted, her different moods. She is so popular and touches people in so many different and diverse ways.*



Mid-summer, my mom died, after a long illness. When I was home in New Britain, CT, celebrating her funeral and life, I was touched again by our beloved St. Thérèse. Being in the church where my mom and dad were married 76 years ago, and where my siblings and I grew up in the faith and received all the sacraments and our religious education, was an incredible experience. Plus, Mom's funeral was on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Sitting and praying in this holy place brought back so many memories. At one poignant moment, I realized that I was sitting, as I did as a child, between and under two stained-glass windows: one of St. Lucia, my mom's name, and St. Thérèse, my friend and boss! These two women have dominated my life. And now they are united in God's kingdom and heart. I was choking back tears as I prayed, under their colorful protection and love. And I lit a candle before her statue, as I had done many years ago. The statue showed the results of age, but her radiant smile and welcome were still there, as I remembered as a young boy.

It was consoling to know that Thérèse had welcomed Lucy, my mom, home. Those two women have been looking over me all my life. Thérèse has led me to the Carmelites and taught me the spirituality that my mom had instilled in me.

St. Thérèse touches so many people. Our mail reflects that every day. She gives people hope. She teaches child-like trust. She lets us know that we are not abandoned – that God listens and responds. Just as she had her father, Louis Martin, wrapped around her little finger, I believe Thérèse has God wrapped around her finger and God has trouble saying “no” to our beloved intercessor and friend.

I am constantly moved by the many, many stories of people who lose loved ones, struggle with diseases or disappointments, or face crises, and how much Thérèse helps and heals them. She knows how to touch our hearts in simple and beautiful ways. She sends gentle signs that speak of heaven responding, often with roses.

I still powerfully remember 12 years ago when I was seriously ill. An infection was eating away my spinal cord. The pain was endless and even pain management pills could not help. Eventually surgery was needed and the recovery was much longer than I ever expected. Doctors had told me I might never walk again. I was depressed, angry, and scared. “Why me, Lord?” I'm embarrassed to say I did not pray for a long time during the recovery. Finally, in desperation, I asked Thérèse how she got through the dark times of her life. There was a long silence, mostly because of my impatience. Eventually I heard her whisper: “Trust God!” I responded furiously: “Easy for you to say, look where you are, Thérèse, and I'm stuck here

in bed, possibly never to walk again!” That was not the answer I wanted. Months later, I asked her again – and again, the same simple message: “Trust God!” I did say: “Don't you have anything else to say?” – but she was right. I had to get over my self-pity and wallowing and learn to trust God. God was teaching me that I was not the Messiah I had made myself to be, and to simply trust Him.

Many other people have had similar or parallel experiences of Thérèse's wisdom and presence.

I also think her spirituality of simplicity and trust speaks to our higher nature. In a very stressed world, where the virtue of trust is not necessarily prized, she speaks of innocence and trust: in God and in others. Thérèse has a powerful message in an age troubled by cynicism. We seem to have lost our innocence. Her simple message of God's unconditional love and presence is so necessary – and soothing to our souls. So many people proclaim that she is the one who made spirituality accessible. Thérèse proclaims and celebrates the absolute mercy of God! It is such good news!

She lifts the burden of trying to earn God's love. She teaches us that God loves us, not because we are good, but because God is good! That makes all the difference! The focus is on God (not on us and what we are to do) and God's unconditional love and presence.

Among the hundreds of saints St. Pope John Paul II canonized, it is no wonder that he named only one – Thérèse of Lisieux – a Doctor of the Church. He basically said: “Read the Gospel through this little girl's eyes and heart!” No wonder St. Thérèse is the favorite saint of Pope Francis as he calls us to a renewed simplicity of Gospel living and taking care of God's little ones.

St. Thérèse truly makes a difference in millions of peoples' lives. She calms, heals, inspires, and is just present in a way that touches the inner child in us all. Thérèse delights in us – and tickles something deep in our souls. In a stressed and overly serious world, we need to smile and be tickled and laugh. She does that for us – and in us!

Thérèse's wish “to spend her heaven doing good on earth” and her desire “to go to the ends of the earth to make God know and loved” has inspired millions of her friends to have a generous missionary spirit. Their generosity is touching, uplifting, healing, and helping so many people in 56 countries around the world where the Carmelites serve to fulfill her mission. This young saint is so relevant – she draws us out of ourselves to think big and live generously. What a difference St. Thérèse is making in people's lives around the world, through the prayers and generosity of her friends.

Thérèse of Lisieux truly is a saint for the ages! ■



“THIS YOUNG SAINT IS SO RELEVANT - SHE DRAWS US OUT OF OURSELVES TO THINK BIG AND LIVE GENEROUSLY. ... THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX TRULY IS A SAINT FOR THE AGES!”



THE ROOTS OF THÉRÈSE'S FAITH

# Louis and Zélie Martin

BY FATHER BOB COLARESI, O.CARM

Louis Martin (1823-1894) was a watchmaker by trade, and quite a successful one at that. Born into a family of soldiers, Louis spent his early years at various French military posts. He absorbed the sense of order and discipline that army life engenders. His temperament, deeply influenced by the peculiar French connection between the mystical and the military, tended toward things of the spirit.

At 22, young Louis sought to enter

religious life at the monastery of the Augustinian Canons of the Great St. Bernard Hospice in the Alps. The blend of courage and charity the monks and their famous dogs manifested in rescuing travelers in Alpine snows appealed powerfully to Louis Martin. Unfortunately, the Abbot insisted the young candidate learn Latin. His most determined efforts to do so failed. He became ill and dispirited, and abandoned his hopes for the monastic life.

Eventually, Louis settled down in Alençon, a small city in France, and pursued his watchmaking trade.

Zélie Guerin (1831-1877) was one of Alençon's more talented lace makers. Born into a military family herself, Zélie described her childhood and youth as "dismal." Her mother and father showed her little affection. As a young lady, she sought unsuccessfully to enter the religious order of the sisters of the Hotel-Dieu. Zélie then learned the Alençon lace-making technique and soon mastered this painstaking craft. Richly talented, creative, eager, and endowed with common sense, she started her own business and became quite successful.

Louis Martin and Zélie Guerin eventually met in Alençon, and on July 13, 1858, Louis, 34, and Zélie, 26, married and began their remarkable voyage through life. Within the next 15 years, Zélie bore nine children, seven girls and two boys. "We lived only for them," Zélie wrote; "they were all our happiness."

The Martins' delight in their children turned to shock and sorrow as tragedy relentlessly and mercilessly stalked their little ones. Within three years, Zélie's two baby boys, a 5-year-old girl, and a 6-and-a-half-week-old infant girl all died.

Zélie was left numb with sadness. "I haven't a penny's worth of courage," she lamented. But her faith sustained her through these terrible ordeals. In a letter to her sister-in-law, who had lost an infant son, Zélie remembered: "When I closed the eyes of my dear little children and buried them, I felt sorrow



through and through ... People said to me, 'It would have been better never to have had them.' I couldn't stand such language. My children were not lost forever; life is short and full of miseries, and we shall find our little ones again up above."

The Martins' last child was born January 2, 1873. She was weak and frail, and doctors feared for the infant's life. The family, so used to death, was preparing for yet another blow. Zélie wrote of her 3-month-old girl: "I have no hope of saving her. The poor little thing suffers horribly ... It breaks your heart to see her." But the baby girl proved to be much tougher than anyone realized. She survived the illness. A year later she was a "big baby, browned by the sun." "The baby," Zélie noted, "is full of life, giggles a lot, and is sheer joy to everyone." Death seemed to grant a reprieve to the Martin household. Although suffering had left its mark on mother and father, it was not the scar of bitterness. Louis and Zélie had already found relief and support in their faith.

The series of tragedies had intensified the love of Louis and Zélie Martin for each other. They poured out their affection on their five surviving daughters: Marie, 12, Pauline, 11, Leonie 9,

Celine, 3, and their newborn. Louis and Zélie named their new-born Marie-Francoise-Thérèse Martin. A century later, people would know her as St. Thérèse, and call her the "Little Flower." ■

*"We lived only  
for them ...  
they were all our  
happiness."*



Roses in  
unexpected  
places



**JOE VOSS**  
Officer of  
Gift Planning

As I continue to meet friends of St. Thérèse in my travels throughout the country, I recently visited Peg Larose in Virginia. During our conversation, Peg began sharing one of her most intimate experiences with St. Thérèse in the course of her work as a home health nurse. Here is a summary of that experience, in Peg's own words:

*"The mother had advanced disease and little help at home with her two small children. It's easy to understand why the little ones got into the medication supplies. This is an all-too-frequent scenario in home health nursing: limited care-giver help and kids in stuff. Now, this mom was in trouble and needed the nurse's intervention fast! I was that nurse, and when I saw the mess the medication box was in, all I could do was pray and start the frantic search for the correct medication.*

*There is no need for further details except to say the mom was safe when I left the home, still shaking from the experience. I decided to make a stop at a nearby community rose garden to collect my wits before continuing on to my next home visit. That quiet moment among the roses did the trick.*

*As I entered the next home, I noticed a strange looking old lady sitting in the corner of the living*

*room. She was wrapped up, even though it was June and quite warm. She even had a wool cap on her head. "Strange," I thought. She directed me to the patient's room and as I turned to head down the hall, she called, "Be sure to look out the bedroom window." "OK," I called back and went on to my patient.*

*After the procedure, I remembered the lady's directive to "look out the window" and so opened the shade. I was stunned! There, in the middle of a dismal inner city apartment yard was an enormous yellow rose that looked as though it had been tended by angels. At once, I knew who that strange little old lady was and hurried to the living room to thank her. She was gone, but not without showering me with that rose. Our Little Flower, it seems, is always on the job."*

Peg has had a strong devotion to St. Thérèse for many years. She is now retired, but still volunteers her time helping children and adults of migrants in her region of the country and supporting the mission of the Society of the Little Flower.

One of the greatest blessings in my work here at the Society is to listen to people's personal stories about how the Little Flower has touched their lives. ■

If you would like to share your personal story about St. Thérèse, you can reach Joe at **888.996.1212**.

# *In the Blink of an Eye*



*In the blink of an eye, our lives can be changed forever. In times of despair, hurt, and loss, we turn to God and our faith to get us through life's difficult journeys.*

Recently, I had the privilege of visiting with Dolores in her home. Dolores shared with me a time of despair and loss, her deep faith in God, and strong devotion to St. Thérèse that helped her and her family get through a very difficult period.

While asleep one night, Dolores – along with her mother and sister – were awakened by a loud voice that echoed through their entire home. The piercing noise was coming from a recording in a vehicle outside that was driving down their street with a megahorn saying, “Evacuate immediately! The dam has broken – this is an emergency – take no time – evacuate immediately!” It kept repeating over and over. Dolores and her family quickly ran to their car, taking nothing, and started driving as fast as they could away from their home. Dolores was driving and remembers her sister in the back seat yelling “Drive faster! The water is coming! I see the water! It’s following us! Drive faster!” In the blink of an eye, Dolores’ life was changed. They lost their home and everything in it to the flood waters from the burst dam.

As her father had died just two weeks prior to the flood, Dolores and her family were still grieving. All of the mementos of his life, along with important documents from the funeral, were still on the dining room table. The St. Thérèse photograph on the wall next to her mother’s bed –

the one she had prayed to every day – was among the many cherished things destroyed in the flood.

They had nothing but the pajamas on their back – yet still they had each other.

The years ahead were difficult for Dolores and her family. They prayed, were thankful to be alive, and had faith that things would work out. They lived in a shelter for nine months after the flood, and then a very small apartment after that. Dolores expressed to me that her mother and she never gave up hope. They had deep faith and prayed every day to St. Thérèse, knowing she would intercede with God to give them peace and find a home for them to live in again as a family.

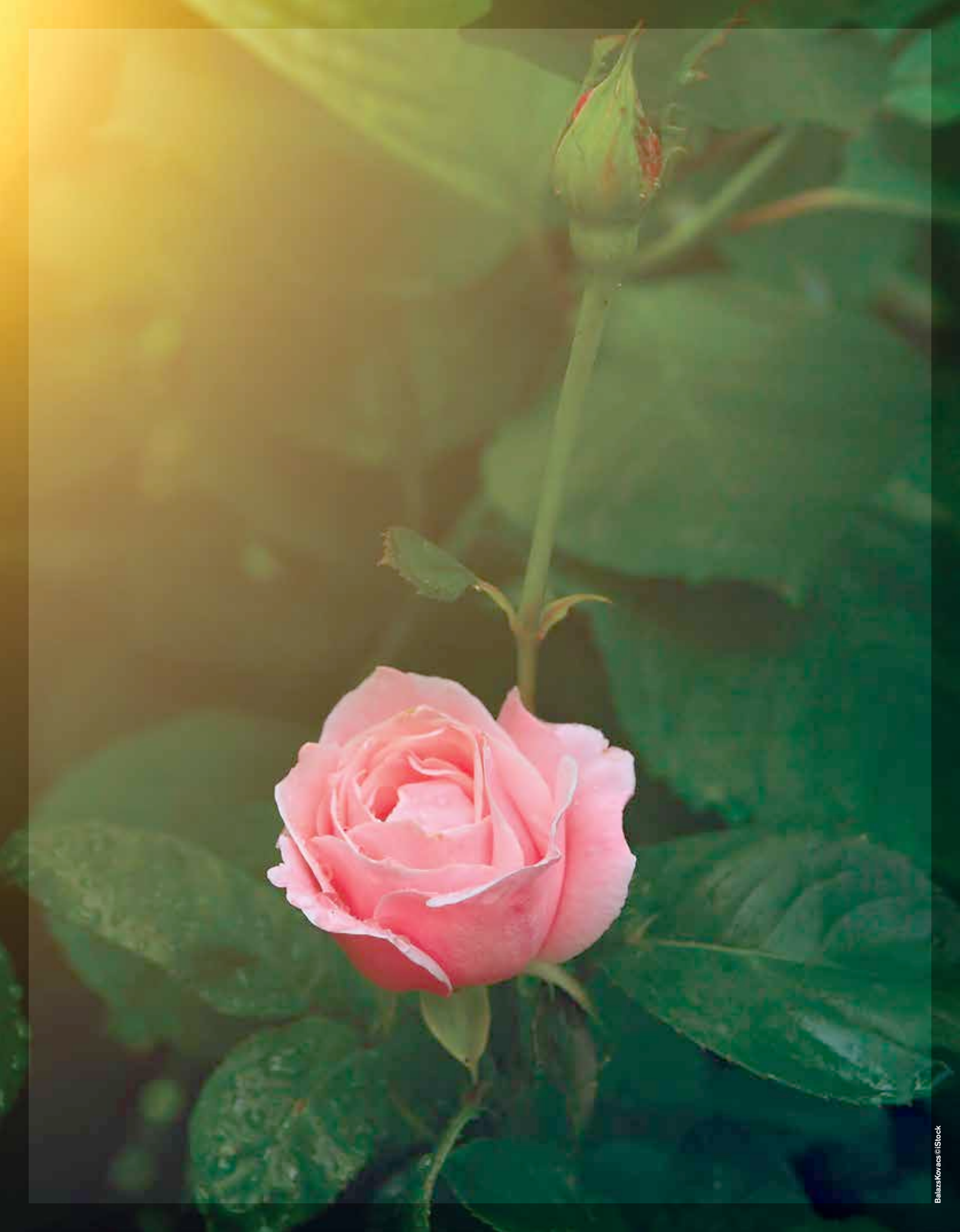
After five years, Dolores and her family found a home just blocks away from their original one. Not only does she believe that her devotion and faith sustained them, she also believes the Little Flower surely had something to do with finding a home for them so close to the one she grew up in.

Dolores said St. Thérèse continues to send her roses and answer prayers and she is deeply devoted to our dear Little Flower. In thanksgiving, Dolores recently made a generous donation to the Society of the Little Flower for the renovations of the National Shrine of St. Thérèse in memory of her deceased parents and brothers. ■



**MARY ZACHARIAS**  
Officer of  
Gift Planning

You can reach Mary at **888.996.1212** if you would like to arrange a visit to the shrine and learn more about the exciting plans for future growth.





# The little things



DAN PRITCHARD

*It's the little things.  
It's almost always the little things.*



When we look back on our lives, very few of us will be able to report that we climbed Mt. Everest, or made millions in the stock market, or were blessed with a heavenly vision. Most of us live regular, ordinary lives.

As children, we dream about what we'll be when we grow up. It used to be that "nun" or "priest" was the acceptable answer. Today, you'll hear "superhero" or "secret agent." No one ever replies "bag lady" or "street person."

We all have big dreams. But are we a failure when those dreams aren't realized? In God's eyes, is the nun or priest or superhero or secret agent more worthy than the bag lady or street person?

Of course not. He loves us all just the way we are. Our job descriptions never define us.

What God does care about is what we do with what we've been given. For some, all they've been given is the short end of the stick – one hard knock after the next. For others, a Midas touch was their birthright.

But whether we've had to deal with a life of hard knocks, or lived the life of Riley, or fall somewhere in between, God is most concerned about what we do with what we've been given. And it seems our most loving actions are expressed in little ways.

It really is the little things that define our hearts.

Think of the sacrifices you have made along the way: the quiet things you did for your children, the extra efforts you made as your parents got older, the times you reached out to a stranger who needed a helping hand, or even the gifts you made to support St. Thérèse and

the Carmelites.

You made these sacrifices not out of a sense of pride or for the sake of notoriety, but out of true gratitude to the Lord for all that has been given to you.

The Society of the Little Flower would not exist if it weren't for you. Without question, every gift counts. Whether you respond to an appeal, create a charitable gift annuity, or remember the Society in your estate plan, every gift counts. Those gifts reflect what is in your heart and what you are able to do.

The Society has been existence for 90 years. Through our outreach, millions of souls have found refuge in the loving arms of St. Thérèse. Hardly a day goes by without someone remarking, "She is always there for me."

Always there. It is Thérèse's heavenly mission to help those who seek her, whenever and wherever they are.

Today, Thérèse needs you. As people wander aimlessly through life looking for answers that the world can't provide, they feel empty and alone. The Society of the Little Flower needs to continue its outreach to those who yearn to find meaning in life. Perhaps our mission today is more important than ever. But the Society and the Carmelites need your help to continue this mission while also planning for the future. Would you consider making a gift in your will or trust to support the work of the Little Flower as we plan for the years to come? It would be a wonderful way to say "thanks" to the saint who has always been there for us. ■

**To assist you in your planning,** we are offering our friends a free booklet, "Techniques for Planning a Successful Will." Call us at **888.996.1212** to request your copy today.

# Gift Annuities are not all alike.

Perhaps now is the time to consider a gift annuity with the Society of the Little Flower.

Not only do we offer some of the best rates you will find, you'll be glad to know we still do things the old-fashioned way.

We offer:

- Lifetime payments – at a rate that will never change;
- Service that is second to none;
- A mission that you can believe in.

Your gift will allow us to spread devotion to Saint Thérèse, educate seminarians and support our Carmelite missions.

In times of need, Saint Thérèse has always been there. A charitable gift annuity is a creative way to say thanks while helping yourself as well.

## Sample One-Life Rates\*

<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate of Return</u>
72	7.7%
75	8.1%
80	9.3%
85	11.0%
90+	13.8%



**Society of the Little Flower**  
Office of Planned Giving  
1313 N. Frontage Road  
Darien, Illinois 60561

Toll Free: 888-996-1212  
[www.littleflower.org/plannedgiving](http://www.littleflower.org/plannedgiving)

**YES!** Please send me my personalized annuity package.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date (For Single Life Annuity) \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date (For Joint/Survivorship Annuity) \_\_\_\_\_

Please call 888-996-1212 regarding the rate that applies to your situation. Don't hesitate to request a free illustration for a one-life, two-life or deferred gift annuity. \*Rates are subject to change. For U.S. residents only.