

Devotion to Thèrèse spread very fast, mostly through *The Story of a Soul*, the autobiography she had written under obedience to her sister, who as her Mother Superior at the Carmel of Lisieux. Her “Little Way” might be described as a way of living each day with the realization that we are all children of God.

Thèrèse of Lisieux was canonized a saint by Pope Pius XI in 1925. St. Thèrèse had prophesied that she would “make God loved” after her death and spend her time in heaven doing good on earth, showering roses. Devotees of St. Thèrèse believe that she often sends roses to those who seek her intercession. They can come in various forms — everything from a greeting card to real, actual roses.

St. Thèrèse of the Child Jesus was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II in October of 1997 because of the profound impact she has had on the life of the Church over the last century.



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## ***Novena to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux***



***The Little Flower***

**NOVENA TO SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX**  
**"THE LITTLE FLOWER," DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

**The following prayers are repeated once a day  
for nine consecutive days.**

**Prayer to Saint Thérèse**

O glorious St. Thérèse,  
whom Almighty God raised up to aid  
and inspire the human family, I implore your miraculous intercession.  
You are so powerful in obtaining every need  
of body and spirit from the Heart of God.  
Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "Prodigy of Miracles . . .  
The Greatest Saint of Modern times."  
Now I fervently beseech you to answer  
my petition and to carry out your promises  
of spending heaven doing good upon earth . . .  
of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses.  
Little Flower, give me your childlike faith,  
to see the Face of God in the people and experiences of my life,  
and to love God with full confidence.  
St. Thérèse, my Carmelite Sister, I will fulfill your plea  
"to be made known everywhere"  
and I will continue to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen.

**NOVENA ROSE PRAYER**

O Little Thérèse of the Child Jesus,  
please pick for me a rose from the heavenly gardens  
and send it to me as a message of love.  
O Little Flower of Jesus,  
ask God today to grant the favors  
I now place with confidence in your hands  
(*mention your request here*).  
Saint Thérèse,  
help me to always believe,  
as you did, in God's great love for me  
so that I might imitate your "Little Way" each day. Amen.

**HISTORY OF THE DEVOTION**

Marie Françoise Thérèse Martin was born on January 2, 1873, to Louis Martin, a watchmaker, and his wife, Zélie Marie Guérin, a maker of lace, in Alençon, France. Marie Francis was called by her middle name, Thérèse, because she had an older sister already named Marie. When Thérèse was four years old, her mother died and her father moved to Lisieux to be near his deceased wife's sister, who he hoped would look after his five daughters.

The motherless Thérèse grew very attached to her sisters who, one by one, left to join the Carmelites of Lisieux. First, Pauline entered when Thérèse was nine; then, her sister Marie followed, when Thérèse was nearly fourteen. Shortly after this, Thérèse says, she had a conversion on Christmas Eve, when it seemed to her that the Infant Jesus filled her soul with light.

Wishing to follow her two sisters into the Carmelites, she made her wish known to her father in May 1887, when she was about fourteen and a half years old. Louis Martin gave his assent to her request, but the nuns at the Carmel would not hear of it because she was so young. An appeal to the local bishop also met the same response. A short time after her attempted entrance into the Carmel of Lisieux, she went on pilgrimage with her father to Rome.

During an audience with Pope Leo XIII, Thérèse approached the Holy Father to silently receive his blessing. She broke the silence and asked him, in honor of his priestly jubilee, to grant her request to enter the Carmelites. Although he did not grant her request, he told her that she would enter the Carmelites when God willed it.

Soon after the father and daughter returned to Lisieux, the bishop changed his ruling, allowing Thérèse to enter Carmelites on April 9, 1888, at the age of fifteen. She was professed a little more than two years later.

Her years at the Carmel were spent in prayer and living out her vocation in simplicity. She took her vocation to pray for priests seriously and prayed especially for a priest who had left the Catholic Church and started a new church, an ex-Carmelite named Hyacinthe Loyson. She also greatly desired to go to Hanoi and to be with the Carmelites there, but the sickness that plagued her short life grew worse before she could ever leave. On September 30, 1897, she died at the age of 24.