

*30 Days with*  
SAINT THÉRÈSE



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*by*

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As the older girls matured, one by one they announced their intention of entering the religious life. Pauline joined the Lisieux Carmel, and soon Marie joined her there. Leonie entered a convent of Poor Clares, but she found that she was unsuited to such an austere life; after two months, the superior of the Poor Clares sent Leonie home.

On the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday, 1887, Thérèse approached her father as he sat in the garden and asked his permission to enter the Lisieux Carmel. She was only fourteen, and it was against the rule of the Carmelites to accept such a young candidate, but Louis arranged an appointment with the superior of the Carmelite friars. The superior believed that Thérèse was indulging in some romantic fantasy about the religious life; barely concealing his irritation, he informed her that she was not eligible for admission until she was sixteen.

But Thérèse would not give up. She begged her father to make an appointment with the bishop of Bayeux, and once again Louis could not refuse anything to his “little queen.” The bishop was kind, but he also insisted that Thérèse must wait. In frustration and disappointment, Thérèse burst into tears, crying so hard that the bishop put his arms around her and tried to comfort her.

To distract his unhappy child, Louis announced that he, Thérèse, and Celine were to make a pilgrimage to Rome. The churches and shrines of Rome thrilled Thérèse and Celine, but they took-



second place to what would be the highlight of the tour—attending a Mass celebrated by Pope Leo XIII in his private chapel, followed by a private audience with the Holy Father. The pilgrims' chaplain reminded everyone that they were not to speak to the pope, simply kneel and receive his blessing. Thérèse, however, was not about to let such an opportunity pass. As she knelt before Pope Leo, she asked him to let her enter the Carmel immediately. The chaplain assured the Holy Father that the bishop of Bayeux was considering the matter. "Very well, my child," Leo said, "do as your superiors tell you."

Thérèse would not let it end there. Grabbing the pope's knees, she tried to persuade him. When Thérèse would not let go, some papal guards stepped forward, pried her hands off the pope, and carried her out of the audience chamber.

On New Year's Day, 1888, the bishop of Bayeux granted Thérèse permission to enter the Carmel early. The prioress of the Carmel, Mother Marie de Gonzague, apparently was not pleased that an exception had been made, so she put Thérèse off until after Easter.

On April 9, 1888, Thérèse and her family attended Mass at the Carmel. Afterward, she embraced her father, then walked through the door of the grill that separated the public from the nuns. There the prioress and all the nuns—including Pauline and Marie—were waiting to welcome her.







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\*\*\* DAY 1 \*\*\*

*The Little Way*

God would never inspire me with desires which cannot be realized; so, in spite of my littleness, I can hope to be a Saint. I could never grow up. I must put up with myself as I am, full of imperfections, but I will find a little way to Heaven, very short and direct, an entirely new way.

STORY OF A SOUL, CH. 9

*Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

MATTHEW 18:3-4





## \*\*\* DAY 2 \*\*\*

### *The Beloved's Garden*

I saw that every flower He has created has a beauty of its own, that the splendor of the rose and the lily's whiteness do not deprive the violet of its scent nor make less ravishing the daisy's charm. I saw that if every little flower wished to be a rose, Nature would lose her spring adornments, and the fields would be no longer enameled with their varied flowers. So it is in the world of souls, the living garden of the Lord.

STORY OF A SOUL, CH. 1

*I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. As a lily among brambles, so is my love among maidens. As an apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved.*

SONG OF SONGS 2:1-3







\*\*\* DAY 3 \*\*\*

*God Knows Your Weakness*

That I often fall asleep during meditation, or while making my thanksgiving, should appall me. Well, I am not appalled; I bear in mind that little children are just as pleasing to their parents asleep as awake.

STORY OF A SOUL, CH. 8

*As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.*

PSALM 103:13-14

