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For Raymond. Let's be saints together.

- KW

For Mom and Dad, and my grandparents.

- LP

“The most extraordinary thing in the world is an ordinary man
and an ordinary woman
and their ordinary children.”



- G.K. CHESTERTON

One Holy Marriage: The Story of Saints Louis and Zélie Martin © 2023 Katie Warner

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ONCE UPON A BRIDGE,
in Alençon, France,
an ordinary man
met an ordinary woman,
and they fell extraordinarily in love.

Louis was a watchmaker, born to a military family.
Growing up, his heart's desire was to become a monk.



God had another plan.

Zélie was a lacemaker, born to a devout family.
Growing up, her heart's desire was to become a nun.



God had another plan.



It was Spring.

The leaves rustled in the April breeze, and Zélie could hear the water flowing beneath her feet as she strolled across the Saint Leonard Bridge, a bag of lace slung over her shoulder.

Suddenly, she noticed a young man.
His soft features and kind eyes held
her glance, and in that still, brief moment,
she heard above the birdsong a voice
whisper in her heart:


"This is he whom I have prepared for you."



And so Louis and Zélie,
the match made in heaven,
fell in love.

*Together, they would
uncover God's better plan.*





In the heat of a French summer day, only three short, prayerful months after their divine meeting on that bridge above the Sarthe River, the watchmaker and the lacemaker met at the foot of the altar. In the candle-lit Basilica of Notre-Dame, their hopeful eyes locked on one another, and with her soft hands in his strong grasp, they made a promise:

*To have and to hold
From this day forward
For better, for worse,
For richer, for poorer
In sickness, in health
'Til death do us part.*

Then Louis Martin and Zélie Guérin—once two strangers passing on a bridge—became one.

