



St Therese of Lisieux

Continuing the recent general audience given by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, I was delighted to read the following extract and firmly believe it would benefit others who are unfamiliar with both the writings and exemplary life of St Therese. Pope Benedict said in his general audience on 6th April:

"Today I would like to speak to you about St. Thérèse of Lisieux, [also known as] Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, who lived only 24 years in this world, at the end of the 19th century, leading a very simple and hidden life, but who after her death and the publication of her writings, became one of the best known and loved saints.

"Little Thérèse" has not failed to help the simplest souls, little ones, the poor, those who suffer and who pray to her, but she has also illuminated the whole Church with her profound spiritual doctrine, to the point that, Blessed Pope John Paul the Great wished to give her the title of doctor of the Church, adding it to the title of patroness of the missions, which Pius XI gave her in 1939. My beloved predecessor described her as an "expert in the scientia amoris" ("Novo Millennio Ineunte," 27).

Thérèse expresses this science, which sees the whole truth of the faith shine in love, primarily in the account of her life, published a year after her death with the title "Story of a Soul."

The book immediately had great success. It was translated into many languages and spread throughout the world. I would like to invite you to rediscover this little-great treasure, this luminous commentary on the Gospel fully lived! "Story of a Soul," in fact, is a marvellous history of Love, recounted with such authenticity, simplicity and freshness, before which the reader cannot but be fascinated!"



(VATICAN CITY, APRIL 6, 2011)

Statue of Our Lady in Lisieux

A Glass Half Full.

In addition to this I can also commend to the reader a the below conversation/homily which is indelibly impressed in my mind, regarding the graces which God wishes to shower on those that He loves, no matter who they are, or their station in life.

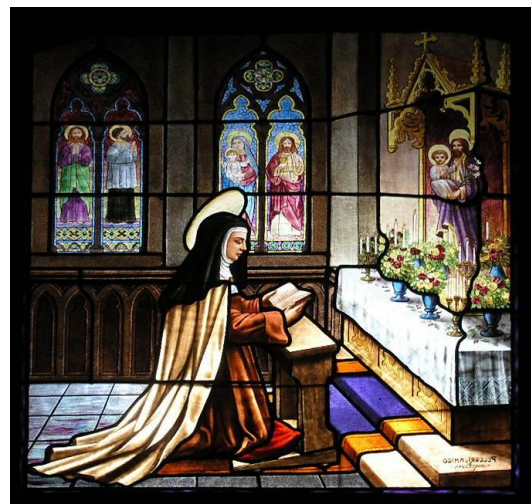
A few years ago I was once asked, 'Is your glass half-full or half empty?' to which I replied, "it is neither." I then tried to explain the use of two glasses both filled to the brim with water, but one is smaller than the other. The next question we need to ask, is 'which is the fullest?' As neither of the two containers are able to hold any more you could therefore surmise that in Heaven the least have no cause to envy the greatest, since in the eyes of God we are all His beloved. On a more precise note, if we compare the love that Christ has for his Blessed Mother, and the love he showers on his creatures, then this would be indicative of the amount of water contained in a large vessel as opposed to a tiny thimble, but as since are both full, then no matter what we try to do, if we turn all our intentions and prayers to those of Our Blessed Mother, we can always rely on her intercession and help when we need it most.

As Christ can never refuse His Mother anything that she asks of Him, than surely it can be expected that if we turn our attention and devotion to Our Lady, this will surely guarantee not only our own salvation, but also through our little sacrifices and offerings to God, then we will be able to bring Christ to those yet to find Him, both near and far.

Mary is full of grace and because of this, she is immaculately holy, preserved from all stain of original sin – this is why the love Christ has for his Blessed Mother can never be compared to

the love we enjoy, but if we are able to count the numerous blessings which He showers down from Heaven, then it could be said that the world would become a far better place to live in. God's graces are so powerful through our prayers and almsgiving, that if we always give thanks to God for his Blessed Mother, and live the kind of lives which are pleasing to Him, then He will always continue to bestow his graces and blessings no matter what size our thimble would be.

In case you are not aware, Saint Theresa is known as the Saint of the Little Ways, meaning she believed in doing the little things in life well and with Great love.... She is represented by roses.



Saint Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that Has been given to you.
May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to Sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us..

'Worry looks around,
Sorry looks back, Faith looks up.'
This angel is sent to you...

Have faith..

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything they have.

Report by L.H.