

MORNING MEDITATION

St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Serenity has a soothing, calming influence on the mind and the heart.

Isaiah 66:10-14

The power of the Lord will be revealed in and through his servants. They are to rejoice and exalt in the fulfillment that he gives them. He will give them comfort and prosperity.

Psalms 131

LORD, my heart is not proud;
nor are my eyes haughty.
I do not busy myself with great matters,
with things too sublime for me.

Matthew 18:1-4

The disciples wanted to know who was of greatest importance in the kingdom. Jesus responded: 'unless you turn and become as children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. You are going in the wrong direction, not in the direction of the Kingdom'. You are aiming at personal power, prestige, etc. which is the opposite of the Kingdom.

Humility is the quality of a person who belongs in the kingdom. Child's trust, dependence, innocence and purity are all qualities of people of the kingdom.

Reflect on turning toward the Kingdom, away from personal power, prestige, etc.

Saint of the Day, October 1 - St. Theresa of the Child Jesus and 34 other saints are remembered this day

Marie Françoise Martin was born on January 2, 1873, in Alençon, France to pious parents, both of whom were canonized saints in October 2016. Her mother died when she was four, leaving her father and elder sisters to raise her. At the age of fifteen, she joined the Carmelite convent and was given the name Therese. She lived a life centered on the Gospel. She believed that any life could be a holy one. "To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul" reflected her attitude and she did her daily chores joyfully with love.

Theresa is known as "Little Flower" because she lived her life in a "little way", always

ready and willing to do humble, small things without complaining. Greatness lies also in doing little things and doing it well with love. Life of holiness is open to all and it doesn't have to include spectacular events! Just before her death at the age of 24, suffering from tuberculosis, she said, "I promise to spend my heaven doing good on earth".

Thérèse offered herself as a sacrificial victim to the merciful Love of God on June 9, 1895, the feast of the Most Holy Trinity and the following year, on the night between Holy Thursday and Good Friday, she noticed the first symptoms of Tuberculosis, the illness which would lead to her death on September 30, 1897, in Lisieux, France

She was canonized a saint on May 17, 1925, by Pope Pius XI and was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II in 1997 - 100 years after her death at the age of 24. She is only the third woman to be so proclaimed, after Saint Catherine of Siena and Saint Teresa of Avila.

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