

"A Saint Who Didn't Do A Thing"

The Feast today is that of St. Theresa Martin, who entered the Carmelite convent at the age of 15. This Order lives a cloistered life --i.e., the nuns never leave their convent, like other Orders of women who teach children, nurse the sick, or help the poor. Ten years after her entrance, Theresa lay dying. The other nuns in the convent at Lisieux began to chat about the history of their young companion. "What can the Mother Superior put in the convent annuals about her? She did nothing worth recording; she just lived and died."

But God saw what the good nuns could not see--Theresa's heart. She put a tremendous love of God behind everything she did--and that made the little things in her life very great--little things like sweeping, clearing the table, washing windows, and sewing.

Her "Little Way", as she called it--doing little things with a big love--should attract us to imitate the Little Flower, because our life will be much like hers, made up of commonplace duties and sacrifices. It is true that she never made any headlines. She never did a thing the world would call exciting--or even take notice of. And yet, she achieved something more valuable than all this world has to offer.

She's the kind of person who makes you stop and shuffle your sense of values; and she brings home the tremendous truth--one that you cannot sidestep--a truth that makes you admit with reluctance: "She didn't do a thing that I can't do. There's nothing in all the world to prevent my imitating her."

To the world she will remain a puzzle--because the world takes note only of front-page stuff, of miracles, heroic penances, great oratory. Here there was nothing external to gape at, no heroics for one to record in eye-filling narratives. All that she ever did was to love God with a great love.

There's a tremendous lesson in her life for all of us, and a comforting one. And it is proof that sanctity is within the reach of everyone--not something elusive, or reserved for the very few. Come to think of it--we are all called to be saints, too. Indeed, all one has to do is to start his day of study, or whatever else the occupation may be, with a genuine Morning Offering prayer, and carry on from there, making sure that every act of the day proceeds with a big love for God.

That's all she ever did, and the Church canonized her. And God showed his approval in numerous miracles. St. Theresa explains the whole mystery of her sanctity when she wrote: "Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them."

Again she wrote: "Pick up a pin from a motive of love, and you may save a soul."

This is Saint Theresa's Feast Day. Spend a few minutes in prayer to her before you retire tonight. Reflect on the great truth that she has proved in her life--the simplicity of sanctity even in the humdrum daily life of a student such as yourself.

This Is The Month Of The Rosary

Join the group daily at 5 p.m. in the Lady Chapel of Sacred Heart Church for the public recitation of the Rosary. If that's inconvenient, then join your hall ~~chapel~~ group later in the evening when the Family Rosary is recited, by the men themselves on their own initiative.

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Tonight at 6:45 in Sacred Heart Church -- the Senior Class Mission.

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