

## CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

# The little ways of St. Therese

By Janaan Manternach  
NC News Service

Therese Martin was born in 1873 into a large family, the youngest of nine children. Naturally she was the family favorite.

Her father was a watchmaker and her mother made lace. They had worked hard and were very well off. When Therese was just 4 her mother died.

Therese was a very pretty young girl. She was very bright and full of life. She also could be stubborn at times. She enjoyed family games and especially going fishing with her father.

Therese felt loved from the very beginning. As she grew, she felt sure of God's love for her. She learned at home to trust and love God. She also learned to care about others by watching how her parents and older brothers and sisters loved one another. She saw too how generous they were to anyone in need.

One after the other her older

sisters became Carmelite nuns. By the time she was a teen-ager she was eager to join the Carmelites herself. She felt it would be her way of loving God and other people the best she possibly could.

Since she was still so young, the bishop of Lisieux would not let Therese become a nun. She went with her family to Rome and met Pope Leo XIII. She boldly asked him to let her become a Carmelite even though she was just 15. He did not refuse so she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux and spent her life there.

Few people ever heard of her. She followed the same routine of prayer, work and recreation the other nuns followed.

She seemed to take in everyone's problems. Even though her life was spent within the walls of the convent, she prayed for people everywhere. She prayed especially for missionaries who were working to help people all over the world come to know and love Jesus.

She wished she could give her life for Christ, as so many martyrs did. But she found she could love God and others in more ordinary ways. She tried to be kind to the Sisters she lived with and to be patient and understanding when they did things that bothered her.

Her superiors were so impressed with Sister Therese's prayerful and caring life that they asked her to write her autobiography. In it she told the secret of her life: how she trusted completely in God's love for her. And she tried to love God and her sisters by doing the ordinary things of her daily life as well as possible. She called it her "little way."

Sister Therese's "little way" became known when her autobiography was published after her early death in 1897. Now, all over the world people read about Therese and try to follow her way of love and trust.

Her feast day is Oct. 1.



St. Therese at 15

(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, scripture stories and original stories for children.)

### Hidden Words

Find the words hidden in the puzzle below. They may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. All the words are in this week's children's story.

C	E	I	N	L	Q	P	D	R	M
A	A	E	Y	I	U	R	J	X	K
F	O	R	I	S	D	H	O	I	E
V	J	T	M	I	S	C	Q	M	L
T	H	E	R	E	S	E	H	D	E
N	U	Z	H	U	L	O	R	T	S
U	A	F	L	X	W	I	S	C	U
N	K	P	W	L	N	A	T	L	M
G	S	I	S	T	E	R	B	E	T
B	G	C	M	F	N	B	P	O	S

CARMEUNITES, THERESE, LEO, LISIEUX, SISTER, ROME, NUN, FEAST

## HOW ABOUT YOU?

Make a poster on a piece of paper that shows and tells how people can share something of their own — their talents, their love, their time — in order to help others.

### Children's Reading Corner

In the poetic story titled "One Small Blue Bead," by Byrd Baylor Schweitzer, an old Indian tribesman believes that there are other people in the world besides his own. No one shares his belief except a young boy who is willing to help with the old man's work so that he can go out into the world to look for the other people he believes will be found there. The climax comes when the old man returns many months later with a young boy the same age as the boy of his own tribe. (Macmillan Publishing Co. Inc., 866 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022, 1965. Hardback. \$9.95.)



## Caring

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