

# WORLD & NATION

## Thérèse becomes doctor of church

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Although St. Thérèse of Lisieux never studied at a university and wrote no thick scholarly tomes, Pope John Paul II named her a doctor of the church, placing her among the Catholic Church's most important theologians.

"Something surprising is happening today," the pope said Oct. 19 as he formally proclaimed the French Carmelite the 33rd doctor of the church.

Despite her lack of academic accomplishments, he said, "beginning today, she will be honored as Doctor of the Church," a recognition that goes "well beyond what any academic degree could."

The other doctors, all but two of whom are men, are saints who devoted much their lives to learning and to learned explanations of Catholicism. They include St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas.

The "Little Flower," as St. Thérèse is known, died in 1897 at the age of 24. Her understanding of spirituality, theology and Scripture are found in three autobiographical manuscripts, published together after her death as *Story of a Soul*.

Her recognition as a doctor of the church, the pope said, is a sign to all Catholics that her writings "can be a point of reference, not only because they conform to revealed truth, but also because they shed new light on the mysteries of the

faith and (lead to) a more profound understanding of the mystery of Christ."

St. Thérèse is the youngest person ever proclaimed a doctor of the church, Pope John Paul said.

"Yet her spiritual journey was so mature and courageous, the intuitions in her writings about the faith were so vast and profound that she deserves to be placed among the great spiritual masters," he said.

In his proclamation letter, Pope John Paul said that what St. Thérèse explained and described as the "little way" of spirituality was nothing other than a fresh and refreshing presentation of God's love for all people and his call for everyone to be holy.

"Thérèse offers a mature synthesis of Christian spirituality," he wrote.

"Thérèse has a unique universality," he said. "Her personality and the evangelical message of the 'little way' of trust and spiritual childhood found and continue to find a surprising acceptance that has crossed every border."

The pope also said St. Thérèse showed "the feminine genius" of understanding hidden truths and putting them into practice in her daily life.

Pope John Paul highlighted St. Thérèse's youthful searching for God in an Oct. 18 address to an estimated 50,000 Italian children and teenagers, members of the youth section of Catholic Action.

Before she entered the Carmelite con-

vent at the age of 15, she would have made a perfect member of the parish-based groups, which promote community service and church involvement, the pope said.

"She was full of vitality, faith and enthusiasm for Jesus and for the Gospel," he said. "Her brief existence was completely consumed by love for God and by the desire to make the whole world love him."

St. Thérèse's little way, he said, explained how all people can reach sainthood by abandoning themselves to God and to his will for them even in the simplest tasks of daily living.



An image of St. Thérèse of Lisieux hangs from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica.

### Supreme Court rejects parental consent appeal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Eight justices of the U.S. Supreme Court agreed Oct. 20 with a lower court ruling that Louisiana's law on parental consent before minors' abortions "flies in the face" of past Supreme Court rulings.

With Justice Antonin Scalia dissenting, the court rejected the state of Louisiana's request for a review of its 1995 law that gave judges greater authority to decide whether a pregnant minor could have an abortion without telling her parents.

Controversy over the legislation centered on a stipulation that judges "may" approve abortions in cases where the girl is deemed mature enough to make the decision without parental consent or

where it is in her best interests to have the abortion.

A previous version of the parental consent legislation had said judges "shall" authorize abortions in those circumstances.

Overturning the legislation in April, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had said the law placed an "undue burden" on young women seeking abortions and was therefore unconstitutional.

"The plain language of (the Louisiana law) states that juvenile court judges within Louisiana have the discretion to deny an abortion to a minor even though the minor demonstrates that she is mature ... or that the abortion would be in her best interest," the appeals court said.

## CALENDAR

### All Diocesan

#### Religious Activities

■ **MON, OCT. 27** — **Reservation deadline:** for an evening with Bishop Clark for Catholic 20's/30's (single and married); Siena Catholic Academy and St. Thomas More Church, 2617 East Ave., Rochester; 6:45-9:15 p.m.; dinner followed by discussion of "What Does It Mean to be Catholic? Catholic Identity for a New Millennium"; \$10; to RSVP call Karen Rinefierd, 716/328-3228, ext. 255, or 800/388-7177, ext. 255, or by e-mail (krinefierd@dor.org).

#### Workshops

■ **Nov. 7-9** — **Marriage Encounter Weekend:** sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter; The Days Inn, Bath; 7:30 p.m. Fri. - 5 p.m. Sun., call 716/872-3180 or 607/776-4870.

### Chemung Schuyler

#### Fundraisers

■ **SUN, OCT. 26** — **Craft fair:** Eastside Catholic Parish, sponsor; St. Peter and Paul Hall and Gym, High Street, Elmira; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; 607/739-7960.

#### Religious Activities

■ **OCT. 27-30** — **Mission/Retreat:** "The Path to Life"; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1100 W. Church St., Elmira; 11 a.m. Mass, 7:30 p.m. Scripture/prayer service; host-

ed by Fr. John Kelleher.

### Monroe County

#### Education

■ **THU, OCT. 23** — **Presentation:** "End of Life Issues"; Queen of Peace Church, 601 Edgewood Ave., Rochester; 7:30 p.m.; Dr. Marvin Mich and Mary Labanowski, MD, presenters.

■ **OCT. 24, 25** — **Lecture:** "Celebrating Thomas Merton: The Song of Glory in Paper Flesh"; Nazareth College, Lorette Wilnot Library, 4245 East Ave., Rochester; 7 p.m. Fri., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat.; call 716/389-2765 or 716/389-2728.

■ **MON, OCT. 27** — **Presentation:** "Developing Human Relationships"; St. John the Evangelist Church, 546 Humboldt St., Rochester; 7:15 p.m.; Dennis Boike, presenter.

■ **TUE, OCT. 28** — **Conference:** Religious Communities as Healers ... Conference on Domestic Violence; Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St., Rochester; 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.; sponsored by Alternatives for Battered Women and St. Bernard's Institute Continuing Education; Bishop Clark to lead opening prayer; call 716/328-3228, ext. 347 or 800/388-7177, ext. 347.

#### Fundraisers

■ **SAT, OCT. 25** — **Cornucopia:** Art Show; 2617 East Ave., Rochester; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; proceeds to benefit St. Thomas More Youth Ministry.

#### Meetings

■ **MON, OCT. 27** —

**Program:** "Citizen Democracy: Rebuilding the City from the Inside Out"; St. Mary's Church, Dugan Center, 15 St. Mary's Pl., Rochester; 12:10-12:50 p.m.; call 716/232-7140.

■ **WED, OCT. 29** — **Program:** "Will the Growing Multi-Culturalism in America Cause Racism to Disappear?"; St. Mary's Church, Dugan Center, 15 St. Mary's Pl., Rochester; 12:10-12:50 p.m.; call 716/232-7140.

#### Religious Activities

■ **SUN, OCT. 26** — **Presentation:** "The Church and the Homosexual"; Blessed Sacrament, 259 Rutgers St., Rochester; 11:10 a.m.-noon; with Thomas Tripiciano.

■ **MON, OCT. 27** — **Healing liturgy:** with Fr. Richard McAlear, OMI; St. Mark's Church, 54 Kuhn Rd., Rochester; 7 p.m.

■ **MON, OCT. 27** — **Registration deadline:** for Nov. 2 retreat "Living Words"; Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester; 1-7 p.m.; Sr. Barbara Staropoli, SSJ, facilitator; for reservations call Sr. Marilyn Pray, 716/235-4068 or e-mail ssjroch@aol.com

■ **MON, OCT. 27** — **Registration deadline:** for Nov. 3 presentation "Palace of Nowhere"; sponsored by the Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 7-9 p.m.; call 716/473-6893.

■ **OCT. 27-29** — **"Mission for Today":** with Fr. Bob Hunt; St. Joseph's Church, 43 Gebhardt Rd., Penfield; 7-9 p.m.; call 716/586-8089.

■ **TUE, OCT. 28** — **Healing liturgy:** with Fr. Richard McAlear, OMI; Holy Name of Jesus Church, St. Martin's Way, Rochester; 7:30 p.m.

■ **TUE, OCT. 28** — **Registration deadline:** for Nov. 4 presentation "Hildegard of Bingen"; sponsored by the Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 7-9 p.m.; call 716/473-6893.

#### Social Activities

■ **FRI, OCT. 24** — **Theater:** "Agape - The Stories and the Feast"; St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Pl., Rochester; 7:30 p.m.; theater piece by Marty Haugen; free; call 716/232-7140.

■ **SUN, OCT. 26** — **Concert:** Eastman Trombone Choir; Church of the Holy Spirit, 1355 Hatch Rd., Penfield; 3 p.m.; reception to follow.

■ **SUN, OCT. 26** — **Dinner:** traditional Puerto Rican dinner; Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier Church, 316 Bay St., Rochester; noon-5 p.m.; \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children under 12; call 716/482-3211.

■ **SUN, OCT. 26** — **Baroque Festival:** with Brockport Symphony Orchestra; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 152 Main St., Brockport; 7 p.m.; \$5 per person, \$4 for seniors, students.

### Seneca Cayuga

#### Religious Activities

■ **NOV. 2-6** — **Mission:** "God is Crazy About You"; sponsored by the Northern Cayuga Cluster; Nov. 2-6, 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's, Weedsport; Nov. 3-6, following noon Mass at St. John's, Port Byron; Fr. Tim Keating from Notre Dame Retreat House will preach; for more information call 315/834-6038.

### Steuben County

#### Education

■ **MON, OCT. 27** — **Presentation:** "Juggling: Family, Jobs, Schedules & God"; St. Mary's Church, 32 E. Morris St., Bath; 7:30 p.m.; Dr. Patricia Schoelles, SSJ, and Deacon Michael Piehler, presenters.

■ **WED, OCT. 29** — **Seminar:** series "Men Are From Venus, Women Are From Mars"; Immaculate Heart of Mary Hall, Painted Post; 7 p.m.; this week "Women Are Like Waves"; for reservations call 607/936-4689.

### Tompkin Tioga

#### Fundraisers

■ **OCT. 24-25** — **Garage sale:** St. Margaret Mary Church, 1110 Pennsylvania Ave., Apalachin; Fri. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Yates Ontario Wayne

#### Social Activities

■ **SAT, OCT. 25** — **Breakfast meeting:** of the Divorced/Separated/Bereaved Group of Macedon; Log Cabin Restaurant, Route 31F, Macedon Center; 9 a.m.; call 315/597-9558.