

EIGHTH DAY 30th September:

Loving God, You shepherded St. Therese with your divine grace and made her a tower of strength to people who had lost faith in You. Help us to be unafraid to pray with confidence for the many in our culture who do not believe.

I reflect you to the world, Lord. Help me to reflect you more clearly
I rely on you, Lord. Help me to rely on you more
I accept your will, Lord. Help me to accept your will every day
I try to forgive, Lord. Help me to forgive more
I am humble, Lord. Give me more humility
I see you, Lord. Help me to see you more
I trust you, Lord. Help me to trust you more
I love you, Lord. Help me to love you more

Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory be...

NINTH DAY 1st October:

Loving God, St. Therese never doubted that her life had meaning. Help us to understand our possibilities for loving and blessing our children, our elderly parents, our neighbours in need, and for priests throughout the world.

I love your people, Lord. Help me to love them more
I reflect you to the world, Lord. Help me to reflect you more clearly
I rely on you, Lord. Help me to rely on you more
I accept your will, Lord. Help me to accept your will every day
I try to forgive, Lord. Help me to forgive more
I am humble, Lord. Give me more humility
I see you, Lord. Help me to see you more
I trust you, Lord. Help me to trust you more
I love you, Lord. Help me to love you more

Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory be...

CONCLUDING PRAYER – to be prayed each day:

O Lord, You have said:
Unless you become as little children you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven; grant us, we beg You, so to follow, in humility and simplicity of heart, the footsteps of the blessed Thérèse, that we may attain to an everlasting reward.
Amen.

NOVENA PRAYER
(to be prayed each day)

Dearest Saint Therese of Lisieux,
you said you would spend your heaven
doing good upon the earth.
Your trust in God was complete.
Listen to my prayer; bring before God
my special intention... (silent prayer)

Pray for me, that I may have your confidence
in the loving promises of our God.
Pray that I may live my life in union
with God's plan for me,
and one day see the face of God
who you so loved so deeply.
Saint Therese, you were faithful until
the moment of your death.
Pray for us that we may be faithful
to our loving God.
May our lives, like yours,
be able to touch the world and bring it to peace.
Amen.



Killarney Parish
9 Day Novena

to
St. Therese Of Lisieux
– "The Little Flower"



"You know well enough that our Lord does not
look so much at the greatness of our actions,
nor even at their difficulty,
but at the love at which we do them."
St Therese of Lisieux

St. Therese and Her Little Way

What is the meaning of "the little way" of St. Therese? It is an image that tries to capture her understanding of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, of seeking holiness of life in the ordinary and the everyday. St. Therese based her little way on two fundamental convictions: *1. God shows love by mercy and forgiveness 2. She could not be perfect in following the Lord.* St. Therese believed that the people of her time lived in fear of God's judgment. The fear was stifling and did not allow people to experience the freedom of the children of God. St. Therese knew from her life that God is merciful love; many scripture passages in the Old and New Testaments bore out that truth. She loved the maternal images for God in the Old Testament and the love of God for us in Jesus Christ. St. Therese once wrote that she could not understand how anyone could be afraid of a God who loves us unconditionally - she went to God as a child approaches a parent with open arms and a profound trust. She knew she would never be perfect.

She also knew that she would never be perfect. Therefore St. Therese translated "the little way" in terms of a commitment to the tasks and to the people we meet in our everyday lives. She took her assignments in the convent of Lisieux as ways of manifesting her love for God and for others. She worked as a sacristan by taking care of the altar and the chapel; she served in the refectory and in the laundry room; she wrote plays for the entertainment of the community. She always gave fully of herself and tried to show love for all the nuns in the community. Her life sounds so routine and ordinary, but it was steeped in a loving commitment. It is called a 'little way' precisely by being simple, direct, yet calling for amazing courage and commitment.

In living out her life of faith she sensed that everything that she was able to accomplish came from a generous love of God in her life. She was convinced that at the end of her life she would go to God with empty hands. Why? Because all was accomplished in union with God.

Catholics have been attracted to St. Therese's style because her 'little way' seems to put holiness of life within the reach of ordinary people. She believed that we should live out our days with confidence in God's love for us. We should recognize that each day is a gift in which our life can make a difference by the way we choose to live it.

St. Therese knew the difference love makes – she allowed love to be the statement she made each day of her life.

FIRST DAY 23rd September:

Loving God, you blessed St. Therese with a great capacity for love. Help us to believe in your unconditional love for each of us.

I love you, Lord.
Help me to love you more

Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory be...

SECOND DAY 24th September:

Loving God, you were pleased with St. Therese's complete trust in your care. Help us to rely on your loving care for us in each circumstance of our lives.

I trust you, Lord. Help me to trust you more
I love you, Lord. Help me to love you more

Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory be...

THIRD DAY 25th September:

Loving God, you graced St. Therese with the ability to see your hand in the ordinary routine of each day. Help us to be aware of your presence in the everyday events of our lives.

I see you, Lord. Help me to see you more
I trust you, Lord. Help me to trust you more
I love you, Lord. Help me to love you more

Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory be...

FOURTH DAY 26th September:

Loving God, you taught St. Therese how to find a direct way to you through the "little way" of humility and simplicity. Grant that we may never miss the grace that is found in humble service to others.

I am humble, Lord. Give me more humility
I see you, Lord. Help me to see you more
I trust you, Lord. Help me to trust you more
I love you, Lord. Help me to love you more

Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory be...

FIFTH DAY 27th September:

Loving God, you graced St. Therese with the gift of forgiving others even when she felt hurt and betrayed. Help us to be able to forgive others who have wounded us.

I try to forgive, Lord. Help me to forgive more
I am humble, Lord. Give me more humility
I see you, Lord. Help me to see you more
I trust you, Lord. Help me to trust you more
I love you, Lord. Help me to love you more

Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory be...

SIXTH DAY 28th September:

Loving God, St. Therese experienced each day as a gift from You, as a time for living according to your will. May we, too, see each new day as a single moment of saying yes to Your will in our lives.

I accept your will, Lord. Help me to accept your will every day
I try to forgive, Lord. Help me to forgive more
I am humble, Lord. Give me more humility
I see you, Lord. Help me to see you more
I trust you, Lord. Help me to trust you more
I love you, Lord. Help me to love you more

Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary and one Glory be...

SEVENTH DAY 29th September:

Loving God, St. Therese offered to You her frailty and powerlessness. Help us to see in our weakness and our diminishments an opportunity for letting Your light and Your strength be all we need.

I rely on you, Lord. Help me to rely on you more
I accept your will, Lord. Help me to accept your will every day
I try to forgive, Lord. Help me to forgive more
I am humble, Lord. Give me more humility
I see you, Lord. Help me to see you more
I trust you, Lord. Help me to trust you more
I love you, Lord. Help me to love you more

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