

+ On the shoulders of giants +

Lessons in holiness from the pro's who have gone before us

Name: Marie-Françoise Thérèse Martin

Lifetime: January 2, 1873 - September 30, 1897

Location: Lisieux, France (1 hr. northwest of Paris)

bio: The Lord achieved remarkable things in this simple soul in her 24 years on this earth. Raised in a faith-filled Catholic family, Thérèse developed an intense love for Jesus at a very young age, and desired even before she was a teenager to become the Spouse of Christ as a sister in the local cloistered Carmelite community. She was so determined to enter Carmel that she went straight to their bishop, and then to Pope Leo XIII in Rome, to ask special permission to enter! She was finally granted her wish at the age of 15, and was given the name Thérèse of the Child Jesus, because of her child-like faith in her King. She spent the rest of her life in Carmel, striving for holiness in the "little ways" of her life with her sisters, and learning to love in extraordinary ways in the midst of what seemed like such an ordinary life. She was canonized a saint in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, and named a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II in 1997 for her profound writings.



St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Patroness of Foreign Missions

Famous Words: "I saw that ALL vocations are summed up in LOVE, and LOVE is All in ALL."

Feast Day: October 1st

But how can a cloistered Carmelite nun become the patron saint of foreign missions??

St. Therese never put a foot outside Carmel after she entered at the age of 15. Why is it then that she has been named the patroness of foreign missions? Check out the excerpt on the back of this page, from a homily by our late holy father John Paul II. Reflect and answer the questions to see what you can learn from her life, about seeking holiness and striving to love perfectly, in little ways every day.