

"Thérèse Martin, a discalced Carmelite of Lisieux, ardently desired to be a missionary. She was one, to the point that she could be proclaimed *patroness of the missions*. Jesus himself showed her how she could live this vocation: by fully practicing the commandment of love, she would be immersed in the very heart of the Church's mission, supporting those who proclaim the Gospel with the mysterious power of prayer and communion...

"...This is why I chose this missionary Sunday to proclaim St Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face *a doctor of the universal Church: a woman, a young person, a contemplative*.

-John Paul II, Homily at the proclamation of St. Therese as a "Doctor of the Church", Oct. 19, 1997

Questions for reflection:

1. What is your idea of a *missionary*? What are they called to do?

2. Because she couldn't leave Carmel to be a missionary in Indonesia, St. Therese learned to see her convent as mission territory, a place where she could still reach out to her sisters and show them Christ's love by serving them and giving her life for them. What are some seemingly "ordinary" places in your life that you may not have thought of as missionary places before?

3. Who are some people in those places that you can see need to know the love of Christ and need to be served?

4. Commit to one way you can be a missionary this week and step outside your comfort zone to serve one of those people:
