

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 30, 2007



A “LITTLE” LOVE GOES A LONG WAY

Our parish’s patron saint is known by several names.

We call her Teresa and that is the English version of the French Therese, her name both in life and in her convent at Lisieux.

She is also widely known as the “Little Flower,” a description she used of herself several times in writing to her sisters in her autobiography, “Story of a Soul.”

But she wasn’t trying to speak in a “cute” way or saying, “Look at how fragile and pretty I am.” On the contrary, she was expressing her belief that in God’s wonderful garden of humanity she was not one of His great flowers, not a rose or an orchid or a lily. No, she thought of herself as just one of the tiny white wildflowers found in any field or along any roadside.

In short, she was one of us. And she liked it that way.

Far from ever aspiring to greatness, Therese wanted nothing more than to stay little, to be entirely dependent on her Father in Heaven, just as any little child is dependent on its earthly father and mother.

Therese loved God with an absolute confidence that God loved her and she trusted that whatever came her way in life, suffering as well as joy, was from God and out of His infinite love for her.

And from this trust and confidence in God came Therese’s “Little Way,” her simple doctrine, her formula for staying close to God on earth and finding her way to Him in heaven.

Therese said she could never aspire to doing big things, to saving souls as a missionary, or saving her country like Joan of Arc. And that was all right because she could still do little things, the little things she described as flower petals she could strew in the path of Jesus, her beloved, if she did them perfectly and out of love for God.

Therese was determined to never let a single opportunity to show her love for Jesus to slip by. And in doing so she grasped God, kept Him close and taught us a great lesson.

If we wish to have a real experience of God, to actually be touched by God in a “little” way, to feel His love, all we have to do is let this love, His love, pass through us to others.

To show others, particularly people we find difficult, the love of God, is to experience that love ourselves.

We all have wondered, “What is God’s will for me?”

Therese says this is it.

To love one another -- Therese’s “Little Way”
-- is the way to Heaven.