



**REMEMBERING SAINT THERESE OF  
LISEUX,  
PATRON of the MISSIONS  
and  
PRAYING for ALL MISSIONARIES**



**Saint Therese of the Child Jesus**

Born in Alencon, Normandy, in 1873, Therese was the youngest of nine children in a devout Catholic family.

Therese, who saw her mother Zelig die of breast cancer at the age of four, always longed to join the Carmelite nuns.

When the family moved to Lisieux she tried to enter the convent there but was refused entry because she was too young - novices had to be at least 16 - so she appealed directly to Pope Leo XIII. She suffered further tragedy while a novice. Her father had a series of strokes, which left him with hallucinations and confined to an asylum. And in the 18 months before she succumbed to TB, Therese herself endured terrible physical pain. Yet few even realized she was ill.

After her death in 1897, the Carmelite sisters came upon her writings, where she beautifully described her joys and sorrows. They were published in Story of a Soul. Soon there were reports of miracles from people who had prayed to her. Canonized in 1925, Therese's celebrity has turned her home town into France's second most visited shrine after Lourdes.

In 1927 Pius XI, declared that St. Therese of Lisieux was the special patroness of both men and women missionaries. She was given this title equal to St. Francis Xavier. Therese of the Infant Jesus, Patroness of the Missions, was named without having ever left the convent, without ever having gone to a missionary land. But the motto of her monastic life was: "To love Jesus and to make him loved." She consecrated herself whole-heartedly to this task.

**Presence of God**

We pause and recall that we are always and everywhere in the holy presence of our God. Blessed be God now and forever.

**Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20**

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw Him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

## **Matthew 10:9-15**

**"Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town."**

### **Reflection**

**We live in changing times with regard to many aspects of church life, and this also affects our approach to mission. Changes in our society and in the opportunities and possibilities given to us lead to new approaches and new avenues with regard to the exercise of the believer's mandate in the world. We are accustomed to think of missionaries as those who go to very primitive areas and preach the gospel to people who are illiterate or totally cut off from the mainstream of civilization. But being a missionary is changing. We now work in more civilized countries, and in more advanced cultures. And most areas of the globe have been confronted with the message of the gospel in one way or another. While some are now sent out to teach rather than preach, or to provide help and assistance in training catechists rather than being ministers themselves; others with the help of the local people build infrastructures for the community. Ultimately we must be reminded of the fact that the missionary task of the church is not over. We can and should not hide behind other people's projects or other people's endeavors. Providing assistance is one thing, mission another. And the Lord calls us to be a missionary church. He calls us to be a living diaconal church. The needs are many; the challenges are great. But willing hearts make light work! And willing hearts are hearts of love - for the Lord and his people, and to a world of people lost in pain.**

**As preachers of the Gospel, we cannot make people listen or make a decision. We are not here nor there to win a popularity contest but to preach the Gospel with accuracy, clarity and in love. If we are rejected or unwanted, it is not us but the Word of God and Jesus Christ they are rejecting. We have done our job and we need to move on.**

### **Intercessions**

**Father of all, confident of Your love for the Church and world, we commend our cares and concerns to Your generous mercy.**

**That our Holy Father Benedict might continue to guide the Church to proclaim the compassion of Jesus to a fragmented world. We pray: Lord, in your mercy hear us.**

**That we may have the insight to recognize the hand of God in the lives of others, and ourselves even in unlikely situations. We pray: Lord, in your mercy hear us.**

That the new Churches, especially in Africa and Asia, may continue to build their lives in active faith, persevering hope and self-giving love. We pray:  
Lord, in your mercy hear us.

That all of us will recognize our call to be missionaries by proclaiming the Gospel message boldly but sensitively wherever we may be. We pray: Lord, in your mercy hear us.

That the prayers of all people but most especially the sick may be a source of strength and encouragement for missionaries especially those working in difficult areas. We pray: Lord, in your mercy hear us.

Father we thank You for the gift of prayer, of opening our hearts and minds to You. We thank You for allowing us to use our time, treasures and talents in making the Lord Jesus known. As we pray for the grace to be fervent missionaries, we ask You to grant these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Missionaries**

by Marie Arnold

The missionaries leave their home  
Their family, friends and all,  
To travel far across the seas  
In answer to God's call.

They learn the language of the land  
In order for to go,  
And tell the natives of our God  
Who cares and loves them so.

The natives in those foreign lands  
To idols they all go,  
But idols neither hear nor speak  
The Bible tells us so.

So the mission of our people here  
Is to take the holy word,  
Of salvation from a living God  
To those who never heard.

And we at home can do our part  
As daily we do pray,  
For God to keep them free from harm  
While they are far away.

But lets not forget our missionaries  
That work for God at home,  
To show God's love to many



Who feel lost and all alone.  
So let us all just do our part  
For our missionaries dear,  
Whether they be far away  
Or whether they be near.

We'll pray for God to guide them  
As they teach His word so true,  
And support them with our pledges  
As His work they gladly do.

**Prayer for Missionaries**

O almighty God, Lord of the harvest of souls, we ask You to guide and bless all who have gone forth to preach the gospel. Endow them with the gifts of generosity and concern. Send Your Holy Spirit on them, that He may strengthen them in weakness, comfort them in trials and direct their efforts. May He open the hearts of their hearers to receive Your message. Let Your revelation enlighten all minds for the salvation of souls, and let Your love heal every heart and body for the happiness of each person. May all people consciously acknowledge You and serve You by living the teachings of Your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Saints Francis Xavier and Therese of the Child Jesus,  
ask the Lord's blessing on all who proclaim Christ.**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle  
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,  
help us to be continually filled with the spirit of faith and zeal.**

**Live Jesus in our hearts.  
Forever!**