

The background is a light cream color with a delicate, watercolor-style border of pink roses and butterflies. The roses are in various shades of pink, some fully bloomed and others as buds, with green leaves. The butterflies are also in shades of pink and purple, with detailed wing patterns. The overall aesthetic is soft and romantic.

September 25–October 3

St. Theresa Novena

Sts. Louis and Zelie Foundation

www.restoreallfamilies.org



St. Theresa Novena

September 25-October 3

*Can you give less than 2 minutes to St. Therese of the Child Jesus for 9 days?
Nine days from now is the feast of a little and simple Saint, who God chose to
lift up and rise to the honor of being the "Greatest Saint of Modern Times" ...
Saint Therèse of the Child of Jesus!*

*Her simple life of just loving God through daily sacrifices and offering up the
simple little crosses, gained her a reward beyond compare!
She is such a great example and model that we can all follow after.*

*And we all can never forget her simple promise she made at the end of her life...
"I shall spend my heaven doing good on earth. After death, I shall let fall a
shower of roses."*

*So join us in this special Novena to St. Theresa of the Child Jesus
and may she hear your prayers and let a shower of roses
fall from Heaven upon you and your family!*

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, pray for us!





First Day

The gardens of earth are filled with countless varieties of blossoms.

Nothing else is clearer proof of the artistry of God the creator than the endless beauty of the flowers with which He softens the hard contours of the earth.

*Rose and lily, wisteria and aster, shy violet and sturdy sunflower, tropic orchid and mountaintop edelweiss, brown deserts magically carpeted with tiny blooms, orchards heralding spring with a lacework of blossoms—
God's world is a lovely place.*

The gardens of heaven are filled with countless varieties of saints— God's flowers. Apostles and martyrs, confessors and doctors, virgins and widows, kings and plowmen, scholars and cooks—all are there.

And among these flowers of God we find and love and honor the little girl, the holy Carmelite who became the beloved Little Flower of Jesus.

In her honor we say:

The Prayer of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus:

O God, who hast said, "Unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech thee, so to follow in humility and simplicity of heart the footsteps of the virgin blessed Theresa that we may attain to everlasting reward. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

Second Day

Into the Martin family, good but not extraordinary, pious but not outstanding, firm in faith but surely not rich in possessions, came the little daughter who was to be God's Little Flower.

God loved her, and in childlike simplicity she loved God as a tiny child. Sickness touched her early, and it was the vision of Our Lady that brought her back to health.

Docile daughter, thoughtful pupil, sweet companion, gentle sister, gay with the laughter that comes from the wells of holiness, alert to the beauty of earth because it made her think of the beauty of heaven, this Little Flower lived and loved as Mary did when she was young.

When she knelt before the Holy Father and cried out, "I am young, but I must enter Carmel," even the Pope smiled at the rare vision of saintliness in innocence, that one so young should already be so holy.

Her first communion was the advent of the love of her life. Her admission into the Sodality of Our Lady made her forever a child of Mary. At a time when the modern world needed saints—and young saints she was God's Little Flower, lovely and perfumed and ready for the gardens of heaven.



In honor of this Little Flower we say:

The Prayer of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus:

O God, who hast said, "Unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech thee, so to follow in humility and simplicity of heart the footsteps of the virgin blessed Theresa that we may attain to everlasting reward. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.



Third Day

*From the dawn of reason her heart was set upon Carmel.
Why Carmel? Why this life of renunciation and penance? Why did she long to shut
herself away from the world, to leave family and friends, to become an
obscure nun behind the bars of a cloister?*

*Because saints always have two great certainties: the importance of loving
God and the need to do penance for sin. To the Little Flower the
cloister of Carmel was the house of God. There without distractions she
felt that she could obey the first and greatest of the commandments:*

*"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart,
and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind."*

There too she could, she knew, obey the second of the commandments:

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

*Loving God, she could do penance for the sinners of the world. Giving God
her complete affection, she could plead for the men and the women who
give Him no affection. Herself sinless, she hoped to be able through penance
to win forgiveness for the criminal, the lustful, the cruel, the vicious.*

To this little victim of love and sin we pray:

The Prayer of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus:

*O God, who hast said, "Unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall
not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech thee, so to follow in humility and
simplicity of heart the footsteps of the virgin blessed Theresa that we may attain to everlasting
reward. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost,
God, world without end. Amen..*



Fourth Day

*The thought of Carmel, of loving God only and winning salvation for sinners,
was the impelling motive of her young life.*

*But it was not easy to leave home and
relatives and friends. Every tie of childhood bound her close to the
associations of home. She was like the rest of us: Temptation to ease and
luxury and comfort touched her closely. It took a will united closely with the
suffering Savior to kiss her father goodbye and say farewell to her relatives and friends.*

*She turned from her beloved home for the last time, torn between the joy of
entering Carmel and the pain of knowing that she would never again see
the dear familiar house. She was leaving all things for Christ.*

*She was making the great sacrifice that is demanded of every religious.
Only the certainty that Christ waited for her in the cloister of Carmel
and that His cross was sweet and His burden light made it possible
for this child to leave all that she naturally loved
and voluntarily accept imprisonment behind the grill of Carmel.*

To the little maiden who made her great renunciation for God and sinners we pray:

The Prayer of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus:

*O God, who hast said, "Unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall
not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech thee, so to follow in humility and
simplicity of heart the footsteps of the virgin blessed Theresa that we may attain to everlasting
reward. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost,
God, world without end. Amen..*

Fifth Day

From that day until long after her death the Little Flower bloomed unseen in a transplanted garden on earth. She dropped over her young and lovely face a concealing veil. She wore the disguising garments that are the religious habit and heard the key turn in a lock that closed her in and all the world out.

Business and industry, changes of cabinets and marches of armies ignored her completely. But she did not ignore them.

Prayer... prayer... and more prayer became her life. She prayed before men rose from their drugged sleep and after they had dropped exhausted on their beds. She rose at midnight to pray again for the sinners of the night.

She followed in prayer the faltering steps of the young and begged for strength for them. Through her prayers she went with the missionary into far countries, begging God's grace for his work. Her prayers like angel messengers came to the dying and stood between the tempter and sin.

Prayer was her life; she prayed for the life of souls. And because of her the lives of thousands are turned from death and other thousands find the life of God.

To the praying nun of Carmel we say:

The Prayer of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus:

O God, who hast said, "Unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech thee, so to follow in humility and simplicity of heart the footsteps of the virgin blessed Theresa that we may attain to everlasting reward. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen..

Sixth Day

Sin is the saddest thing we know.

Sin nailed Christ to the cross, rejecting in scorn and ridicule the most wonderful figure in history. But from the cross Christ faced sin and through His sufferings and torturing Passion made possible our victory over sin and the certainty of our own Easter and resurrection.

These were commonplace truths to the Little Flower of Jesus. She claimed a part for herself in the Passion of her Lord. If sinners must suffer, she asked to be allowed to suffer as Christ had suffered, in the place of sinners.

If sin could be wiped away only by sorrow and penance, she grieved that the vicious struck at God and at their own happiness, and she voluntarily fasted and laid the scourge to her gentle flesh.

She kept silence to atone for sins of the tongue.

She went without food to win forgiveness for the drunken.

She was cruel to her flesh because so many in the world pampered their flesh. And because of her God sent new waves of grace to sinners and forgave criminals on their way to the gallows and snatched the guilty from the consequences of their guilt.

With them, we thank her and say:

The Prayer of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus:

O God, who hast said, "Unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech thee, so to follow in humility and simplicity of heart the footsteps of the virgin blessed Theresa that we may attain to everlasting reward. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen..



Seventh Day

*Life on earth for the Little Flower was to be short.
Knowing that death was near, she smiled eagerly toward the bliss ahead.
But she was not going to forget the needs of earth.
On the command of her superior, she wrote with the greatest simplicity
the story of her love for God and her devotion to sinners.
And in the telling of her story she said these unforgettable words:
"I shall spend my heaven doing good on earth.
After death I shall let fall a shower of roses."
How charming is the confidence of the childlike saint.*

*Not for a moment did she doubt that heaven would be hers.
Not for an instant did she doubt that God would give her the power to
shower the world with favors.*

*The Little Flower, the rose of earth, knew that once she was in the garden of God,
she would shower roses as a great vine of rambler roses drops its petals to the ground.
She knew that she could best show her love for God by continuing throughout the endless
reaches of eternity to love her neighbor even more than herself.*

To this little saint dropping roses from heaven we pray:

The Prayer of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus:

*O God, who hast said, "Unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall
not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech thee, so to follow in humility and
simplicity of heart the footsteps of the virgin blessed Theresa that we may attain to everlasting
reward. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost,
God, world without end. Amen..*



Eighth Day

"Vox populi est vox Dei," was once the cry of Christendom.

The voice of the people is indeed the voice of God.

Often in the Catholic days it had happened in Rome that when a holy man or woman died the populace gathered under the balcony of Saint Peter's and called aloud to the Holy Father,

"Give us a saint!" When the Pope heard their cry, he came out unto the balcony and answered,

"The voice of the people is again the voice of God. You have a saint."

Something almost like this happened after the death of the Little Flower.

Millions read the story of her life and were enthralled.

Millions lifted their hands in petition and found those hands filled with roses.

Showers of miracles watered the barren lands. The sick were made well.

The lame walked. The blind saw. Sinners loved God once more, knew that their faith was restored.

The story of this unknown little girl became the best known of modern heroines.

Her picture hung on walls near the paintings of the Mother of God.

Our generation had a saint, and all Christendom was glad.



To the saint of our age we say:

The Prayer of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus:

O God, who hast said, "Unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech thee, so to follow in humility and simplicity of heart the footsteps of the virgin blessed Theresa that we may attain to everlasting reward. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen..





Ninth Day

The Little Flower belongs to all of us. She was truly the saint of the common people.

She prayed for priests and asked God to make them worthy of their office.

She prayed that young women would follow her into the convents, and they did—by the thousands.

She prayed for her own beloved family and with them for all the mothers and fathers of the Catholic world. She so loved the missionaries that the Pope made her the heavenly patroness of missionary activity. Young aviators placed her picture on the wings of their planes. Soldiers paused on their way to battle to visit her birthplace and to kneel in the chapel where she had knelt.

Churches were named in her honor, and schools were dedicated to her. Poets and musicians united to sing her praises. But, above all, the poor, the lowly, the weak learned to love her and venerate her for being poor and lowly like themselves. For by her life she assured them that the countless drab little daily acts of virtue were the mosaics of sanctity.

Unknown in life, she is known to all mankind, and all mankind loves the Little Flower. To her we say:

The Prayer of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus:

O God, who hast said, "Unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," grant us, we beseech thee, so to follow in humility and simplicity of heart the footsteps of the virgin blessed Theresa that we may attain to everlasting reward. Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

