

Marie-Azélie Guérin Martin

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(Redirected from Blessed Marie-Azélie Guérin)

Blessed Marie-Azélie "Zélie" Martin née Guérin (23 December 1831 - 28 August 1877) was a French laywoman and the mother of Saint Thérèse de Lisieux. Her husband was Blessed Louis Martin.

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Life

Early life

Marie-Azélie Guérin was born in Saint-Denis-sur-Sarthon, Orne, France and was the second daughter of Isidore Guérin and Louise-Jeanne Macé. She had an older sister, Marie-Louise, who became a Visitandine nun, and a younger brother, Isidore, who was a pharmacist. Her maternal family were from the Madré, in the neighbouring department of Mayenne, where her grandfather Louis Macé was baptised on the 16th March 1778.

Zélie wanted to become a nun, but was turned away by the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul due to respiratory difficulties and recurrent headaches. **Zélie then prayed for God to give her children and that they would be consecrated to God.**

Later, she decided to become a lacemaker, making Point d'Alençon lace. She later fell in love with a watchmaker, Louis Martin, in 1858 and married only three months later.^[1]

Marriage and family

Blessed Marie-Azélie Guérin Martin



Born	23 December 1831 Saint-Denis-sur-Sarthon, Orne, France
Died	28 August 1877 (aged 45) Alençon, Orne, France
Honored in	Roman Catholic Church
Beatified	19 October 2008, Basilique de Sainte-Thérèse by Pope Benedict XVI

Although Zélie and Louis had led a celibate marriage for almost a year, they had decided to have children. They would have nine children, though only five daughters would survive infancy; all became nuns:

- **Marie-Louise** (22 February 1860 – 19 January 1940), as a nun, Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart, Carmelite at Lisieux.
- **Marie-Pauline** (September 7, 1861 – July 28, 1951), as a nun, Mother Agnès of Jesus, Carmelite at Lisieux.
- **Marie-Léonie** (June 3, 1863 – June 16, 1941), as a nun, Sister Françoise-Thérèse, Visitandine at Caen.
- **Marie-Hélène** (October 3, 1864 – February 22, 1870)
- **Marie-Joseph** (September 20, 1866 – February 14, 1867)
- **Marie Jean-Baptiste** (December 19, 1867 – August 24, 1868)
- **Marie-Céline** (April 28, 1869 – 25 February 1959), as a nun, Sister Geneviève of the Holy Face, Carmelite at Lisieux.
- **Marie-Mélanie Thérèse** (August 16, 1870 – October 8, 1870)
- **Marie-Françoise-Thérèse** (January 2, 1873 – September 30, 1897), as a nun, Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face, Carmelite at Lisieux, canonised in 1925.^[2]

After Zélie's death, Pauline, Marie, Thérèse and Céline all became Carmelite nuns one after another along with a cousin, Marie Guérin. Léonie became a Visitandine nun after being rejected by the Poor Clares.

Death

Marie-Azélie died of breast cancer on 28 August 1877 in Alençon, Orne, aged 45. She was survived by her husband and daughters.^[3]

Beatification

Louis and Marie-Azélie Martin were declared "venerable" on 26 March 1994 by Pope John Paul II. They were beatified^[4] on 19 October 2008 by Jose Cardinal Saraiva Martins, the legate of Pope Benedict XVI in Basilique de Sainte-Thérèse, Lisieux, France.^[5]

Publications

In 2011 the letters of Blessed Zélie and Louis Martin were published in English as *A Call to a Deeper Love: The Family Correspondence of the Parents of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, 1863-1885*, " translated by Ann Connors Hess and edited by Dr. Frances Renda.^[6]

External links

1. ^ Saint Therese of Lisieux: A Gateway (<http://www.thereseoflisieux.org/their-lives/>)
2. ^ Saint Therese of Lisieux: A Gateway (<http://www.thereseoflisieux.org/their-lives/>)
3. ^ Canadian Catholic blogsite (http://canadiancatholicblog.blogspot.com/ste_thrse_lisieux)



Portrait of Thérèse's mother at the Basilica of St. Thérèse (Lisieux).

4. ^ Saint Therese of Lisieux: A Gateway (<http://www.thereeoflisieux.org/the-events-of-beatification-su/>)
5. ^ Website of saints at sqpn.com (<http://saints.sqpn.com/saintmdw.htm>)
6. ^ Saint Therese of Lisieux: A Gateway (<http://www.thereeoflisieux.org/my-blog-about-st-therese/2011/7/2/the-letters-of-blessed-zelie-and-louis-martin-the-parents-of.html>)

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