BACKGROUND

Thérèse = TUH-REZ  Lisieux = LUH-SOO

From: FRANCE   Born/Died: 1873-1897  Feast Day: OCTOBER 1ST

Patron saint of: FLORISTS, MISSIONARIES, and PILOTS.

DVD NOTES

1 Even though St. Thérèse of Lisieux died practically unknown (at the age of 24), within a few years she was known worldwide, canonized a saint, and declared a DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.

2 St. Thérèse of Lisieux’s autobiography, STORY OF A SOUL, has been said to be overly sentimental and emotional, but it remains one of the main reasons for the spread of her fame even today.

3 France is the home to both St. Teresa of ÁVILA (oftentimes called “The GREAT Teresa”) and St. Thérèse of Lisieux (called “THE LITTLE FLOWER” by most Catholics outside of France).

4 When Thérèse was only 4 years old her MOTHER died. After this she became withdrawn and moody, even “sensitive to an excessive degree”. School even became very unpleasant for her, as she was often PICKED ON BY CLASSMATES.

5 On May 13, 1883, Thérèse lay helpless in bed until a moment that healed her of all her physical and psychological symptoms. It was the SMILE of St. Mary (on a statue) that Thérèse pointed to as an incredible “manifestation of grace”.

6 When Thérèse was only 15 years old she wanted to become a CARMELITE nun. This desire burned so strongly in her that she courageously met with BISHOPS and even begged the POPE to let her join at such a young age.

7 Unlike the “spiritual athletes who climbed great mountains to God”, Thérèse gradually came to understand that her path was different, one she called, “THE LITTLE WAY”.
OTHER NOTES

A Thérèse performed numerous little sacrifices of love during her time in the convent. Here are three examples:
1. She **SMILED** at sisters she didn’t like.
2. She ate everything she was given without **COMPLAINING** (she was often given the **WORST** leftovers).
3. Instead of **ARGUING** when she was accused of breaking a vase (which she was not guilty of), Thérèse sank to her knees and begged for **FORGIVENESS**.

B When Thérèse was gravely ill she said that her pain was so great that if she had not had faith she would have **TAKEN** her own life without hesitation. Yet, some of her sisters thought she was just faking her illness because Thérèse continued to **SMILE** and be **CHEERFUL** during this time.

C Before dying, Thérèse said, “I will return. My Heaven will be spent on **EARTH**”, meaning she planned to **HELP** as many people as possible with her prayers after she died.

D When Thérèse died she was pretty much a “nobody” (she probably knew no more than **50** people). Everything at the convent quickly went back to normal. One nun even commented that there was **NOTHING** to say about Thérèse. But her sister, Pauline, put together Thérèse’s writings and sent 2,000 copies to other convents. Thérèse’s **"LITTLE WAY"** of trusting in Jesus to make her holy and relying on small daily sacrifices instead of great deeds appealed to thousands of Catholics and others who were trying to find **HOLINESS** in ordinary lives. Within **2** years, the Martin family had to **MOVE** because her popularity became so great. Thérèse was canonized a saint in 1925.

E In 2015, Thérèse’s parents, Louis and Marie-Azélie, were **CANONIZED** as **SAINTS**.