
October 1, 2021 – Memorial of St. Thérèse of Lisieux,
Patroness of the Missions and missionaries

Mission in Scripture

To nurture a missionary heart, reflecting on the missionary themes in the readings of Sundays, Feast Days and Holy Days.

WORLD MISSION MONTH

World Mission Month begins celebrating the patroness of the Missions, St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Reflections on the readings for the Memorial of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus (October 1, 2021): BAR 1:15-22; PS 79:1-2,3-5, 8, 9; LK 10:13-16

Also known as the Little Flower, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, this devout young French woman who died at age 24 has influenced the hearts and spirits of people around the globe. Her deep faith was passed along to her by her parents, Zélie and Louis Martin, who are now also canonized saints. At age 15, Thérèse entered the Carmel at Lisieux which three of her sisters also joined. Her life, although short, included a great deal of spiritual and physical hardship that she always offered to God, saying “Everything is grace.” She had a great dedication to the welfare of priests and missionaries and those they served. In the Gospel for today, we hear Jesus tell the disciples whom He sent out to preach His word that “Whoever listens to you listens to Me” (Luke 10:16). Clearly St. Thérèse had an intense personal longing to share the Good News. She put it this way, “In spite of my littleness, I would like to enlighten souls as did the Prophets and the Doctors. I have the vocation of the Apostles. I would like to travel over the whole earth to preach Your Name and to plant Your glorious cross.... I would want to preach the Gospel on all the... continents and even to the most remote isles. I would be a missionary, not for a few years only but from the beginning of creation until the consummation of the ages.”



Within a few years of St. Thérèse’s agonizing death from tuberculosis in 1897, her autobiography “Story of a Soul” was published. It gained popularity around the world, offering what she called her “little way” of serving God with love at every moment. Declared a saint in 1925, she became co-patron of the missions, along with St. Francis Xavier, just two years later. In 2015, she was named a Doctor of the Church. The Little Flower is a wonderful reminder of all that can be done by those who put themselves into God’s hands.

Suggested missionary action: *As we begin World Mission Month, we can salute St. Thérèse’s dedication to Christ and her earnest desire to draw all people closer to Him by offering the [World Mission Rosary](#). We can regularly pray for missionaries and those to whom they share the Gospel – and all who spread the light of Christ.*



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Society for the Propagation of the Faith

“WE CANNOT BUT SPEAK
ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE
SEEN AND HEARD”
(ACTS 4:20)

2021

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

