



# Praying with Thérèse

Prayer Sheet: No 7

## **Preparation:**

Come into the presence of God and thank him for your favourite saint or a person who inspires you.

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## **Reading:**

*Even at the age of 10, Thérèse was aware that God had great plans for her and she desired to live up to his expectations. In short she wanted to be a “great saint”.*

When reading the accounts of the patriotic deeds of French heroines, especially the Venerable JOAN OF ARC, I had a great desire to imitate them; and it seemed I felt within me the same burning zeal with which they were animated, the same heavenly inspiration. Then I received a grace which I have always looked upon as one of the greatest in my life because at that age I wasn't receiving the *lights* I'm now receiving when I am flooded with them. I considered that I was born for *glory* and when I searched out the means of attaining it, God inspired in me the sentiments I have just described. He made me understand my own *glory* would not be evident to the eyes of mortals, that it would consist in becoming a great *saint*! This desire could certainly appear daring if one were to consider how weak and imperfect I was, and how, after seven years in the religious life, I still am weak and imperfect. I always feel, however, the same bold confidence of becoming a great saint because I don't count on my merits since I have *none*, but I trust in Him who is Virtue and Holiness. God alone, content with my weak efforts, will raise me to Himself and make me a *saint*, clothing me in His infinite merits. I didn't think then that one had to suffer very much to reach sanctity, but God was not long in showing me this was so and in sending me the trials I have already mentioned.

*Story of A Soul*, trans. John Clarke, p. 72

## **Scriptural Echo:**

Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you. . . . I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. . . . As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:1, 6, 18-23

## **Questions for Reflection:**

- Have you ever wished you could follow more closely in the footsteps of your favourite saint(s) or wondered how it is that you do not have a burning zeal as great as theirs?
- Thérèse was born to glory. Do you realise that you, too, are born to glory?
- Are you ready to trust in God to clothe you in the glory won for us by Jesus and raise you to be a saint?

## **Concluding Prayers:**

### **(Prayer with a focus on St Thérèse)**

God, Our Father,  
you revealed to the young Thérèse your strong yet maternal care.  
In times of uncertainty and fear, inspire us with deep trust  
that you are looking after all the flowers in your garden.  
Inspire us likewise to care for those we live with.  
Through Christ your Son.  
Amen.

### **(A prayer for our family / community)**

God Almighty Father, we ask you to bless us.  
Following the example of the Martin family  
may we never give up when life is difficult  
and have your strength and healing when health is poor.  
May the Eucharist be the summit of our lives,  
prayer our daily strength,  
and the Trinity the source of our love.  
We ask this with faith and confidence  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen!

### **Saints Louis, Zélie and Thérèse, pray for us**

*[Louis and Zélie Martin were the parents of St Thérèse and were canonised in 2015]*

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### **Quote for the day:**

**God alone will raise me to Himself and make me a saint.**

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In praying the above you might like to access "A Way to Pray" (<https://carmelite.com/the-way-of-prayer/>) to find help.

### **Acknowledgements:**

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