

St. Thérèse and Her "Little Way"
Church of St. Therese

Fr. Andrie



The Angelus

P: The Angel of the Lord
declared unto Mary

R: And she conceived of the
Holy Spirit.

P: Behold the handmaid of the
Lord

R: Be it done unto me
according to Thy word.

P: And the Word was made Flesh

R: And dwelt among us.

P: Pray for us, O Holy Mother
of God

R: That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Together: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.

Review

- Marriage is a vocation. It is the response to Jesus' call to "follow Him" in a particular state in life. When lived well, it both symbolizes and makes present the love between Christ and His Church.
- The family is a domestic church. That is, it is a privileged place where God purifies and perfects parents and children. The family is where saints are born, shaped, and perfected.
- Parents are the primary educators in the faith. The ministry of parents is original and irreplaceable. Parents are called to live and transmit the gospel through the witness of self-sacrifice, the sufferings and joys of daily family life.

Review

- The Martin family, for its part, exemplified the beauty and challenges of marriage and family. They remained open and docile to God's grace, allowing Him to do the extraordinary in the ordinary events of everyday life.
- Prior to meeting, Louis and Zélie desired to enter religious life. Both, however, were turned away. Louis because he didn't know Latin, while Zélie struggled with poor health.
- Additionally, both had very different temperaments. Louis had a penchant for solitude and contemplation, while Zélie was a "worker bee" who diligently built a successful business making lace in Alençon.

Review

- Louis' mother arranged for Louis and Zélie to meet. The two encountered each other on a bridge and formally met soon thereafter.
- They became engaged and married on July 13, 1858. They were beautified together 150 years later (Oct. 19, 2008).
- While they originally planned to live a life of continence, a confessor convinced them that God had other plans. They had nine children in 13 years! Four passed away quite young.
- **Children:** Marie (b. 1860), Pauline (b. 1861), Léonie (1863), Hélène (1864), Joseph (1866), Joseph (1867), Céline (1869), Marie Melanie-Thérèse (1870), Thérèse (1873).

Review

- Louis and Zélie created what we could call a “Catholic culture of the home.” That is, they cultivated fertile ground where God could implant grace and foster faith, hope, and charity.
- In this culture, God came first (e.g., Sunday observance). Charity ruled. Mass and parish life were central. Prayer was frequent and forgiveness was regularly practiced.
- Additionally, the family greatly suffered. Along with four deaths, they housed foreign soldiers in their home.
- After Zélie’s suffering and death, Louis moved to Lisieux where he raised his five daughters. Eventually, he offered each daughter to God by encouraging them in their vocations.

Story of a Soul

- **Manuscript A:** Winter of 1895 and Thérèse is telling stories from her childhood. Pauline was prioress. She asked Thérèse to put her childhood stories in writing. Thérèse begins working and hands manuscript (A) to Pauline on Jan. 20, 1896.
 - Birth to four and half (death of mother)
 - Mother's death to Christmas grace (13)
 - Christmas grace to entering the Carmel (16)
- **Manuscript C:** Mother Gonzaga tells Thérèse to write about life in the Carmel monastery.
- **Manuscript B:** Thérèse's "Little Way" written as she was dying.

Close Call

- The joy of Thérèse's birth ('Everyone tells me she will be beautiful, she laughs already') soon gave way to a serious concern. Feeding problems, intestinal troubles, restless nights – was this beautiful baby going to die like the others? (Gaucher, 14)
- Given that Zélie was unable to breast feed, she had to find a wet-nurse. Little Thérèse was at death's door. Zélie set out on foot to find the wet-nurse Rose Taille, who had nursed two of her other children.
- Therese would live with Rose and Moïse (her husband) for more than a year. Thérèse began life as a real country girl. (Gaucher, 15)

Far From Perfect

- Thérèse admits she was extremely sensitive as a child. Gaucher states, “She was very emotional, often cried, shrieked sometimes and kept it up for at least an hour. ‘She is a child who is easily upset.’” (18)
- Additionally, Thérèse was strong-willed and a proud child who knew what she wanted.
 - **Zélie:** “When she says ‘no’ nothing can make her give in, and one could put her cellar a whole day and she’d rather than say ‘yes.’” (St



Far From Perfect

- One day Léonie offered her two little sisters some pieces of ribbon and lace in a small basket. Celine took a pretty braid. Thérèse took up the rest, saying, “*I choose all.*” (Gaucher, 19)
- **Thérèse:** In speaking about becoming a saint, she says, “I understood, too, that there were many degrees of perfection and each soul was free to respond to the advances of Our Lord, to do little or much for Him, in a word, to *choose* among the sacrifices He was asking.
- Then, as in the days of my childhood, I cried out: ‘My God, ‘*I choose all!*’ I don’t want to be a *saint by halves*, I’m not afraid to suffer for You, I fear only one thing: to keep my *own will*; so take it, for ‘*I choose all* that You will!’” (27)

Far From Perfect

- Thérèse possessed a sensitive conscience. “I could not stand the thought of having offended my beloved parents.” (*Story of a Life*, 19)
- Yesterday, not meaning to do so, she tore off a small piece of wallpaper. She wanted to tell her Father immediately, and you would have pitied her to see her anxiety.
- She returned four hours later and everybody else had forgotten about it, she ran at once to Marie, saying, ‘Marie, hurry and tell Papa I tore the paper.’ Then she waited her sentence as if she were a criminal.” (*Story of a Life*, 19)

For Us

- Parents love their children dearly. However, it's not long before they recognize their faults: impatience, temper-tantrums. In fact, children seem to love the word "no."
- For my part, I remember coloring the wall with spaghetti and jumping out the window when my father locked me in my room.
- **Key:** The Lord knows your weaknesses, struggles, and flaws. And He knows what graces are needed to work through those weaknesses and heal them. Shortly, we will how God will heal "in an instant" what couldn't do by herself in years.



Enter Winter

- Thérèse's early childhood with "tender kisses" where "everything on earth smiled at her" quickly turned for the worse with her mother's suffering and death.
- Speaking to Pauline (i.e., Mother Superior), she says, "I must admit, Mother, my happy disposition completely changed after Mama's death. I, once so full of life, became timid and retiring, sensitive to an excessive degree." (*Story*, 34)
- During this time, Thérèse's love for her father deepened. "I cannot say how much I loved Papa; everything in him caused me to admire him." (*Story of a Soul*, 48)
- Louis was a "sacramental image" of God the Father for Thérèse.

Strange Sickness

- At age 10, Thérèse fell extremely ill. While in bed one night, she began to tremble all over, felt cold and was very agitated. After receiving news from a doctor, Louis and his daughter returned from Paris. (Gaucher, 46)
- It was so bad that Louis thought *his little girl was crazy or was about to die.* (Story, 61)
- In Thérèse's mind, this strange was the work of the devil. this sickness for what *martyrdom* for *Soul,* 62)



Miraculous Healing

- **Thérèse:** Finding no help on earth, poor little Thérèse had also turned toward the Mother of heaven, and prayed with all her heart that she take pity on her.
- “All of a sudden the Blessed Virgin appeared *beautiful* to me, so *beautiful* that never had I seen anything so attractive; her face suffused with an ineffable benevolence and tenderness, but what penetrated to the very depths of my soul was the ‘*ravishing smile of the Blessed Virgin.*’”
- At an instant, all my pain disappeared, and two large tears glistened on my eyelashes, and flowed down my cheeks silently, but they were tears mixed with joy (*Story, 66*).



Our Lady of the Smile
Original at the Carmel in Lisieux



Our Lady of the Smile (Replica)
Fr. Andrie's Room

Sacraments

- **First Communion:** “Ah! How sweet was that first kiss of Jesus! It was a kiss of *love*; I *felt* that I *was loved*, and I said, ‘I love You, and I give myself to You forever!’
- ...That day, it was no longer simply a *look*, it was a fusion; they were no longer two, Thérèse had vanished as a drop of water is lost in the immensity of the ocean...” (Story, 77)
- **Confirmation:** “Like the Apostles, I awaited the Holy Spirit’s visit with happiness in my soul. ...Finally, the happy moment arrived, and I did not experience an impetuous wind at the moment of the Holy Spirit’s descent but rather this *light breeze* which the prophet Elias heard on Mount Horeb. On that day, I received the strength to *suffer*...” (Story, 80)

Extreme Touchiness

- **Thérèse:** I was really unbearable because of my extreme touchiness; if I happened to cause anyone I loved some little trouble, even unwittingly, instead of forgetting about it and not *crying*, which made matters worse, I *cried* like a Magdalene and then I began to cheer up.
- I'd begin to *cry again for having cried*. All arguments were useless; I was quite unable to correct this terrible fault. I really don't know how I could entertain the thought of entering Camel when I was still in the *swaddling clothes of a child*!
- **Key:** God would have to work a little miracle to make me *grow up* in an instant, and this miracle He performed on that unforgettable Christmas day. (*Story, 97*)

Christmas Grace

- **Thérèse:** “It was December 25, 1886, that I received the grace of leaving my childhood, in a word, the grace of my complete conversion. We had come back from Midnight Mass where I had the happiness of receiving the *strong and powerful* God. (*Story of a Soul*, 98)
- Thérèse recounts a custom where parents would put presents in their children’s shoes by the fireplace. Louis was tired after Midnight Mass, and as Thérèse was going up the steps, he said, “Well, fortunately this will be the last year!” (*Story of a Soul*, 98)
- Thérèse overheard him going up the steps and normally would have burst in to tears.

- Celine expected a great outburst and that Christmas would be ruined.
- However, Thérèse says that “Jesus had changed her heart!”
- She hurried back downstairs, placed the slippers in front of Papa, and withdrew all the objects joyfully. Celine believed it was all a *dream!*
- **Key:** The work I had been unable to do in ten years was done by Jesus in one instant. (*Story, 98*)



Christmas Grace Stairway

For Us

- Therese will see God's mighty hand as she looks back on her childhood experiences. They will become part of her doctrine, her "little way."
- Like Thérèse, we all experience terribly painful moments in our lives (e.g., loss of parent, sibling, etc.).
- Like Thérèse, we all have things we struggle with. For example, you may struggle with complaining, gossip, discouragement, losing your temper, alcohol, sexual sin, etc.
- **Key:** While we carry these burdens, God wants to heal us! And He can do it in an instant! Therese invites us to place *great* confidence in God's ability to give us our "Christmas grace."

Desire for Carmel

- On Pentecost 1887, Thérèse tells her father that she desires to enter Carmel. Louis and Thérèse go see the bishop to ask for permission.
- Thérèse explained her desire to the bishop, who then told her that she needed to interview with the Superior of the Carmel. Knowing the superior's opposition, Therese cry.
- She asked to take a pilgrimage to Rome to speak with the Holy Father!
- On the way out, Louis told the bishop that Thérèse put her hair up to look older. (117)



Off to Rome

- Therese spent a few days in Paris with her father and sister, Cèline. Eventually they made their way to Italy, where they went to Milan, Venice, Padua, Bologna, Loreto, and Rome.
- At the Coliseum, Cèline and Thérèse crossed over the barrier and knelt in the dirt and asked for the grace of being a martyr for Jesus. (*Story of a Soul*, 131)
- They spent six days visiting the principal attractions of Rome; it was on the *seventh* that Thérèse saw the greatest of them all, namely, Pope Leo XIII.
- Will Thérèse ask the Holy Father about entering Carmel?

Pope Leo XIII

- On Sunday, November 20, 1887, Pope Leo XIII celebrated Mass, then welcomed pilgrims. Because of time, pilgrims were forbidden to speak.
- Thérèse knelt down, kissed his slipper, and with her eyes filled with tears, cried out, "Most Holy Father, I have a great favor to ask you!" ... "Holy Father, in honor of your Jubilee, permit me to enter Carmel at the age of fifteen!"
- **Pope Leo XIII:** "Do what the superiors tell you!"
- **Thérèse:** "Oh Holy Father, if you say yes, everybody will agree!"
- **Pope Leo XIII:** "Go...go... *You will enter if God wills it!*" (Story, 135)

Jesus' Little Ball

- Thérèse was crushed. The rest of her trip held no attraction for her. Speaking of how she felt, she says:
 - At Rome, Jesus pierced His little plaything; He wanted to see what there was inside it and having seen, content with His discovery, He let His little ball fall to the ground and He went off to sleep.
 - What did He do during His gentle sleep and what became of His little abandoned ball? Jesus dreamed *He was still playing* with His toy, leaving it and taking it up in turns, and then having seen it roll quite far He pressed it to His heart, no longer allowing it to ever go far from His little hand.
(*Story of a Soul*, 136)

Entering Carmel

- Eventually, Jesus granted all the desires of Thérèse's heart. After much trial, the bishop granted permission for Thérèse to enter Carmel. She would enter on April 9, 1888.
- For Thérèse, Jesus was "behind the grille" holding a ball in his hand and on it was written her name. (*Story*, 142)
- Jesus had prepared to transplant His "little flower" to Mount Carmel under the shadow of the cross. (*Story*, 151)
- **Thérèse:** "Ah! I was fully recompensed for all my trials. With what deep joy I repeated those words: 'I am here forever and ever!'" (*Story*, 148)

Divine Providence

- We will now look at Thérèse's "Little Way" and how she put this new doctrine into practice in religious life at Carmel. To start, we will contrast it with a famous 19th century German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche.
- Something fascinating took place in 1887. In a guest registry at a hotel in Paris in November 1887, there were two entries: St. Thérèse of Lisieux and Friedrich Nietzsche.
- In God's wisdom, He brought together on that one night two diametrically opposed views of life: Nietzsche's self-assertion and "will to power" versus Thérèse's "spiritual childhood" or total abandonment to Jesus and His merciful love.

Great Desires

- Thérèse recognizes that she has *great* desires in her heart. She says:
 - I feel the *vocation* of the WARRIOR, THE PRIEST, THE APOSTLE, THE DOCTOR, THE MARTYR.
 - Finally, I feel the need and the desire of carrying out the most heroic deeds for *You, O Jesus*. I feel within my soul the courage of the *Crusader*, the *Papal Guard*, and I would want to die on the field of battle in defense of the Church (*Story of a Soul*, 192).
- **Key:** Thérèse believes that God never puts a desire in our heart that He doesn't want to fulfill. They must be realizable!

Scale the Mountain

- In short, Thérèse desires to be a saint! She possesses an extraordinary desire for the infinite. To use an analogy, she wants to “scale the mountain of sanctity.”
- Unfortunately, however, she is aware of her imperfections, weaknesses, sins, etc. Additionally, how could her desire to be an apostle, crusader, martyr be fulfilled within the walls of Carmel? Again, God wills to fulfill desires He has placed there!
- Although she is so weak and imperfect, be a way to “scale the mountain.”
- There must be a way for her to climb up the “steep stairway of perfection.”



Elevator

- Thérèse remembered being in an elevator in the home of a rich person. Concerning this, she says:
 - “We are living now in an age of inventions, and we no longer have to take the trouble of climbing stairs, for, in the homes of the rich, an elevator has replaced these very successfully.
 - I wanted to find an elevator which raise me to Jesus, for I am small to climb the rough stairway perfection.”



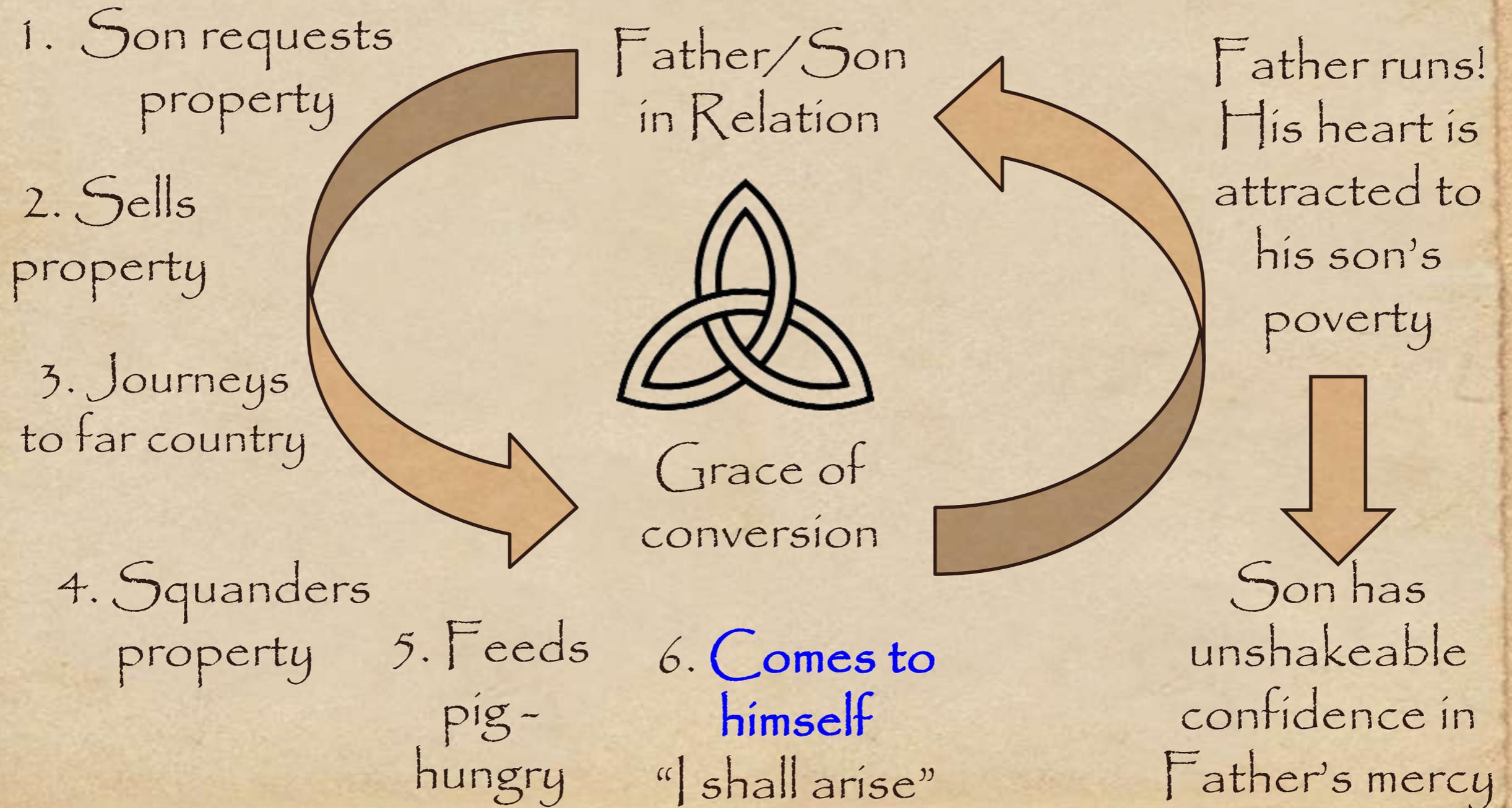
Elevator

- “I search, then, in the Scriptures for some sign of this elevator, the object of my desires, and I read these words coming from the mouth of Eternal Wisdom:
- ‘Whoever is a *LITTLE ONE*, let him come to me.’ And so I succeeded. I felt I had found what I was looking for.
- ...The elevator which must raise me to heaven is Your arms, O Jesus! And for this I had no need to grow up, but rather I had to remain *little* and become this more and more” (*Story of a Soul*, 208).
- **Key:** Thérèse realizes, “What I cannot do myself Jesus will do. He will take me and lift me up to the summit of the mountain of perfection, to the summit of the mountain of love.” (d’Elbee, 28)

Attracting Mercy

- Additionally, Thérèse realizes that her imperfections and weakness *attract* God's mercy, not repel it!
 - *Mercy* (Ln: *misericordia* – *miseris cor dare*)
 - “A Heart that gives itself to the miserable” (*d'Eblee, 29*)
- In great joy, Thérèse says:
 - O Jesus! Why can't I tell all *little souls* how unspeakable is your condescension? I feel that if You found a soul weaker and littler than mine, which is impossible, You would be pleased to grant it still greater favors, provided it abandoned itself with total confidence to Your Infinite Mercy. (*Story of a Soul, 200*)

Prodigal Son



Valley of Humility

- St. Thérèse once told her sister Celine:
- “You wish to scale a mountain, but the good God wants you to descend; he is waiting for you at the bottom of the fertile valley of humility.”
- St. Thérèse of Lisieux,
Counsels and Reminiscences.



Recap

- Let's recap Thérèse "little way" with respect to loving God, to becoming a saint, to intimate union with Jesus.
 - While in Carmel, Thérèse reflects on the great desires in her heart. She wants to do heroic deeds for Jesus.
 - How can she fulfill these desires when she lives within a cloister? Even more, how can she fulfill them when she is just a *weak little bird* (e.g., limitations, faults, weaknesses)?
 - She will not grow up (i.e., rely upon herself), but rather become *little*. That is, in humility, she will abandon herself totally to Jesus and His merciful love. *He* will sanctify her. *He* will lift her up. In short, *He* will save her.

For Us

Me

- When I take time to reflect, I have *great* desires (the aspirations like an eagle)
- However, I also realize my limitations, weaknesses, failures, and sin (I feel like a weak little bird)
- How can I reconcile my great desires (scaling the mountain) with my limitations (poverty)?

Thérèse

- God does not place desires in our hearts that He does not will to fulfill.
- I do not become discouraged because my misery attracts God's mercy. God meets me in the "valley of humility."
- I must become *little* and let Jesus lift me up to the heavens in His arms. In humility, I must *abandon* myself to His mercy!

My Vocation is Love

- How does Thérèse live her “little way” with respect to her sisters? What does it look like?
- Thérèse recognizes that her sisters also have great desires. They have consecrated themselves to Jesus.
- Additionally, living in community, she was well aware of *their* weaknesses, faults, imperfections, etc. In short, like her, they are “imperfect souls.”
 - When I speak of imperfect souls...I want to speak of a lack of judgment, good manners, touchiness in certain characters, all these things which don't make life very agreeable. (*Story of a Soul*, 246)

My Vocation is Love

- Thérèse recognized that while she could not be a missionary spreading the gospel in far off lands, she could be an “apostle of love” right inside the walls of Carmel. In short, she famously said:
 - I understood that LOVE COMPRISED ALL VOCATIONS, THAT LOVE WAS EVERYTHING, THAT IT EMBRACED ALL TIMES AND PLACES...IN A WORD, THAT IT WAS ETERNAL! ...O Jesus, my Love...my *vocation*, at last I have found it...MY VOCATION IS LOVE!
 - Yes, I have found my place in the Church and it is You, O my God, who have given me a place; in the heart of the Church, my Mother, I shall be *Love*. Thus I shall be everything, and thus my dream shall be realized. (*Story of a Soul*, 194)

Jesus' Own Heart

- What does it *mean* to love? Here, Thérèse thinks of Jesus' commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. (Jn 15:12)
- Unfortunately, as with her desire to scale the mountain of sanctity, Thérèse is confronted with her own weaknesses, faults, and limitations. How can she fulfill this commandment?
- In a moment of inspiration, she says, "You know very well that never would I be able to love my Sisters as You love them, unless *You, O my Jesus, loved them in me.*" (*Story*, 221)
- **Key:** Thérèse asks for Jesus' own Heart do what *she herself cannot do*, namely, love her Sisters as Jesus loves them. Jesus-in-her-heart will love Jesus-in-their hearts. (Meester, 126)

Perfect Love

- For Thérèse, the more united she is to Jesus, the more she will be able to love her own Sisters with His own heart.
- Essentially, Thérèse is asking Jesus (perfected love) to supply the “imperfect love” she has for her Sisters.
- Jesus’ perfect love consists in the following:
 - Patiently endure the faults of others (edified by virtue)
 - As far as possible, ascribe good intentions to your neighbor
 - Accepting the “pin pricks” that come to you everyday
 - Do good to those you find “disagreeable” (i.e., hard to love)

Bearing Patiently

- **Thérèse:** “Ah! I understand now that charity consists in bearing with the faults of others, in not being surprised by their weakness, in being edified by the smallest acts of virtue we see them practice.” (*Story of a Soul*, 220)
- Thérèse relates an experience of returning some keys to Mother after being a sacristan. Mother was sick, and another sister stopped her. The two woke up Mother, at which point the sister blamed Thérèse.
- Instead of engaging in combat, Thérèse left quietly and sat down in the stairwell in order to “savor the fruits of my victory.” (*Story of a Soul*, 224)

Ascribe Good Intentions

- **Thérèse:** “When especially the devil tries to place before the eyes of my soul the faults of such and such a Sister who is less attractive to me, I hasten to search out her virtues, her good intentions;
- I tell myself that even if I did see her fall once, she could easily have won a great number of victories which she is hiding through humility, and that even what appears to me as a fault can very easily be an act of virtue because of her intention. I have no trouble in convincing myself of this truth because of a little experience I had which showed me we must never judge.” (*Story of a Soul*, 221)

Pin Pricks

- **Thérèse:** “Love is nourished only by sacrifices, and the more a soul refuses natural satisfactions, the stronger and more disinterested becomes her tenderness.” (*Story of a Soul*, 237)
- Thérèse relates a time she was doing laundry in front of a Sister who was accidentally throwing dirty water into her face. Instead of wiping her face to show her displeasure, she accepted the “treasure” and even returned later. (*Story of Soul*, 250)
- At prayer, one sister had the habit of making strange clicking sound. Thérèse eventually offered the noise as a concert to Jesus. (250)



Good to the Disagreeable

- **Thérèse:** “I must seek out in recreation, on free days, the company of Sisters who are the least agreeable to me in order to carry out with regard to these wounded souls the office of the good Samaritan.” (*Story of a Soul*, 246)
 - “There is in the Community a Sister who has the faculty of displeasing me in everything, in her ways, her words, her character, everything seems *very disagreeable* to me.” (222)
 - Therese sets out doing for this Sister what she would do for the person she loved the most: prayed to God for her, offered Him all her virtues and merits. (*Story*, 222)
- Sister asked, “Would you tell me, Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus, what attracts you so much toward me...” (*Story*, 223)

Good to the Disagreeable

- **Sister St. Pierre:** An ornery sister who needed help getting to the refectory (dining room) from the chapel.
- Sister Pierre shook her hour glass, which meant, "Let's go!" With great sacrifice, Thérèse tried help her as delicately as possible. Sister Pierre complained if Thérèse moved too fast ("You are going to break something!") or too slow ("C'mon...I'm going to fall!").
- Thérèse then sat with St. Pierre, cut her bread, and gave her "my most beautiful before leaving her alone."
Soul, 247-48)



Victim to Merciful Love

- Thérèse understood her consecration to Jesus as a Nuptial Union. In this marriage, she strove to offer herself completely to Jesus and to her Sisters who had Jesus in their hearts.
- She desired to offer herself as a “victim” to Jesus’ merciful love. She says, “O my Jesus, let me be this happy victim; consume Your holocaust with the fire of Your Divine Love!” (*Story of a Soul*, 181)
- For Thérèse, the more she “surrendered herself” to Jesus and His merciful love, the more His love would be unleashed to *set souls on fire*. (*Story of a Soul*, 181)
- **Key:** Love is nourished only by sacrifice. Thérèse wills to sacrifice!

Tuberculosis

- On Good Friday, 1896, Thérèse laid her head upon the pillow and felt something like a bubbling stream mounting to her lips. For her, this was Jesus' "first call" announcing his arrival.
 - She says, "*It was like a sweet and distant murmur that announced the Bridegroom's arrival.*" (Story, 211)
- For the next year and a half, Thérèse would share in the passion of Christ. She suffered her "agony in the garden" both physically and spiritually.
- On July 8, 1897, she was taken to the infirmary where Mother Agnes of Jesus notes of her last months.



Last Months

- On July 17, 1897, Thérèse made her now famous prediction, *"I feel my mission is about to begin, my mission of making others love God as I love Him, my mission of teaching my little way to souls."*
- *If God answers my requests, my heaven will be spent on earth up until the end of the world. Yes, I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth." (Story of a Soul, 263)*
- On September 30, Thérèse was near death. The last two hours of her life were excruciating. "Her face was flushed, her hands purple, and her feet were as cold as ice. She was shivering in her limbs.It was becoming increasingly difficult for her to breathe. When trying to catch her breath, she uttered little cries." (Story, 270)

Last Moments

- Mother Agnes records that Thérèse's head fell back on the pillow and was turned toward the right. She gazed at the crucifix: "*Oh! I love Him!*" And a moment later: "*My God, I love you!*"
- She then fixed her gaze on a spot just a little above the statue of the Blessed Virgin. Her face took the appearance it had when she enjoyed good health. She seemed to be in ecstasy. This look lasted for the space of a "Credo." Then she closed her eyes and expired. It was 7:20 in the evening. (*Story, 271*)
- "A mysterious smile was on her lips. She very beautiful. ... The mysterious death of this unknown Carmelite to begin." (*Story, 271*)

