

Therese Couderc

BY PATRICIA MATHSON

FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 26

Marie-Victoire Couderc lived in a village in France. Her parents were wealthy and she had a younger sister and eight brothers. When Marie-Victoire was 20 years old she joined an order of sisters founded by Fr. Steven Terme. She took the name Sr. Therese.

Gave glory to God

She tried to give glory to God in all things. She soon turned a hostel into a retreat house to help people grow closer to God. In 1826 Sr. Therese founded the Sisters of the Cenacle. This word refers to the Upper Room where the disciples and Mary went to pray. In 1838 she someone else superseded her as superior of the order she founded. Sometimes we care too much what other people think of us, but Sr. Therese only cared about what God thought.

Puts God first

Sr. Therese always put God first in her life. Her story reminds us that



we too are called to put God first in our lives. Sr. Therese tried to live her faith in God every day in all she did. She wrote a prayer that she lived by: “Lord Jesus ... I offer myself to you every day of my life and every moment of every day.” This is a wonderful prayer for all of us to pray.

Prayed for others

She died in 1885, but her order continued and spread to 15 countries. In 1892 her followers came to the United States. They minister today in cities such as Chicago, Houston, and Atlanta. They still offer retreats and pray for the needs of others as St. Therese did. We can be like the sisters and remember the needs of other people in our prayers.

What can we do as catechists?

*** Talk about St. Therese’s life.**

Where did she live? What name did she take as a sister? What did Sister Therese do with the hostel? What was the name of the order she founded? How can we make God a priority in our lives as she did? What was her prayer about offering herself to God? Where did her order spread? Who can we pray for as her followers do today?

*** Create a mosaic craft.** This will help us remember to be like St. Therese Couderc. Write out the words “Do everything for the glory of God” from 1 Corinthians 10:31. Cut out the paper and glue

SEPTEMBER SAINTS

- 3** Gregory the Great
- 8** Birth of Mary
- 9** Peter Claver
- 16** Cyprian
- 17** Robert Bellarmine
- 21** Matthew
- 22** Thomas Villanova
- 23** Padre Pio
- 27** Vincent de Paul
- 30** Jerome

it to a half sheet of colorful card stock. Then cut triangles and other shapes from self-stick craft foam. Place the pieces around the edge to make a mosaic frame.

*** Make a prayer basket.** It is important to pray for the needs of other people. On colorful index cards write the name of a person for whom we can pray such as Grandma who is sick or children living in poverty. Gather in a circle to pray for these needs. Then keep the cards in a basket on the prayer table as a reminder to pray for others the way this saint did.

Prayer

God of love, thank you for the example of St. Therese of Couderc. We praise you for your unending love for each of us. Help us to put you first in our lives each day, like St. Therese of Couderc. May we give glory to you by what we say and what we do, as she did. Amen.

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