

My dear Child in Christ,

“I go to Him with confidence and love...” were the last words written by a young Carmelite nun shortly before she was to pass from this life to eternal life at the age of 24. Though little known at the end of her life here on earth, within a generation of her death, Therese of Lisieux was canonized a saint. Millions of copies of her autobiography, The Story of a Soul have been read throughout the world.

St. Therese had a great devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. On the day she received her First Holy Communion, she writes: “Oh, how sweet the first kiss of Jesus was! It was a kiss of love. I knew I was loved and I declared, ‘I love you and I give myself to you forever.’”

At the age of 15, Therese entered the Carmelite Cloister at Lisieux (a convent where she lived the rest of her life). Her vocation was to pray quietly and with love, especially for vocations and for priests. She became a saint not by doing “extraordinary” things, but by doing ordinary things in an “extraordinary” way - for the love of God. This is known as her “little way.”

Each time you receive Jesus in Holy Communion, go to Him as little Therese of Lisieux did - with confidence and love. After you receive Jesus into your heart, tell Him how much you love him. Talk to Him as your best friend and special love - because that is just what He is. Ask Jesus what He wants you to do with your life. Ask Him if He might want you to become a priest or religious sister or brother. Take time to listen to what Jesus is telling you in your heart. Then pray for your priests - those who baptized you, hear your confessions, give you Holy Communion. Pray for all priests to be strong and faithful and loving in their vocations as “other Christs.”

By signing the detachable part of this folder and returning it to us, you will be officially enrolled as a member in the Junior St. Therese Vocation Society of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. There are no dues or meetings, only the promise of your prayers.

As a member of the Society, you will be remembered in the Masses and prayers of our priests, seminarians, women in formation and of the St. Therese Vocation Society. You will receive a prayer calendar several times a year with the names and intentions for the daily prayers of the members of the Society.

Keep the remaining portion of this folder in your prayerbook or other convenient place, to remind you of your promise of prayers. With your help, we look forward to many future vocations in our Diocese.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Father Robert Avella  
Director of Vocations



Father Brian Bashista  
Promoter of Vocations



*“I will let fall from Heaven. . . a Shower of Roses”*  
-ST. THERESE

Dear Father Bashista,

I would like to become a member of the Junior St. Therese Vocation Society, share in the prayers offered for members, and receive the Prayer Calendar. As a member I promise to:

1. Say a prayer each day for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
2. Say a prayer each day for the priests and religious of the Arlington Diocese, that they be the good, holy and happy priests, brothers and sisters that Jesus needs them to be.
3. During my prayers after my First Holy Communion (and each Holy Communion after that) to ask Jesus how He wants me to love and serve Him. I will pray about whether Jesus might want me or one of my classmates to become a priest or religious brother or sister.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Thanksgiving after Holy Communion

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are present within my heart. You said, "This is My Body and My Blood." I know that You love me and want to be with me.

From my heart I thank you for all You have given to me - my life, my parents, my health, Baptism, my Catholic Faith, protection - all that I have! Make me more grateful still.

Generous Lord, I ask for still more. Please protect my soul and body. Be good to those I love. Let me love You more every day. I ask You this special favor (Whisper it softly to Jesus.) Watch over me and make me good and happy.

Jesus, I promise to receive You as often as I can in Holy Communion. Is there something special that You want me to do for you? (Pause here and think of what Jesus might want to tell you.)

I love You, Jesus. Amen.

## Vocation Prayer

O God, Who enlightens the minds and inflames the hearts of the faithful by the Holy Spirit, grant that through the same Spirit I may know my true vocation in life, and may have the grace to follow it faithfully. I ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who I am privileged to receive into my heart and soul in Holy Communion. Amen.

## Prayer Before a Crucifix

Look down upon me good and gentle Jesus, while before Your face I humbly kneel, and with burning soul pray and beseech You to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity, true contrition for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment: while I contemplate with great love and tender pity Your five wounds, pondering over them within me having in mind the words which David Your prophet said of You, my Jesus: "They have pierced my hands and my feet; they numbered all my bones." Ps. 22:17, 18.

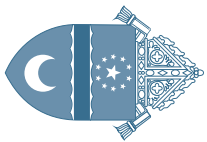
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father, for the intention of the Holy Father.

## JUNIOR

## St. Therese Vocation Society



Diocese of Arlington



PLEASE  
PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE

JUNIOR ST. THERESE VOCATION SOCIETY

Catholic Diocese of Arlington  
Office of Vocations  
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Arlington, VA 22203

Attn: Father Brian Bashista, Promoter of Vocations