



**VISIT OF THE RELICS
OF
ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX**

OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 8

2025

PRESS KIT

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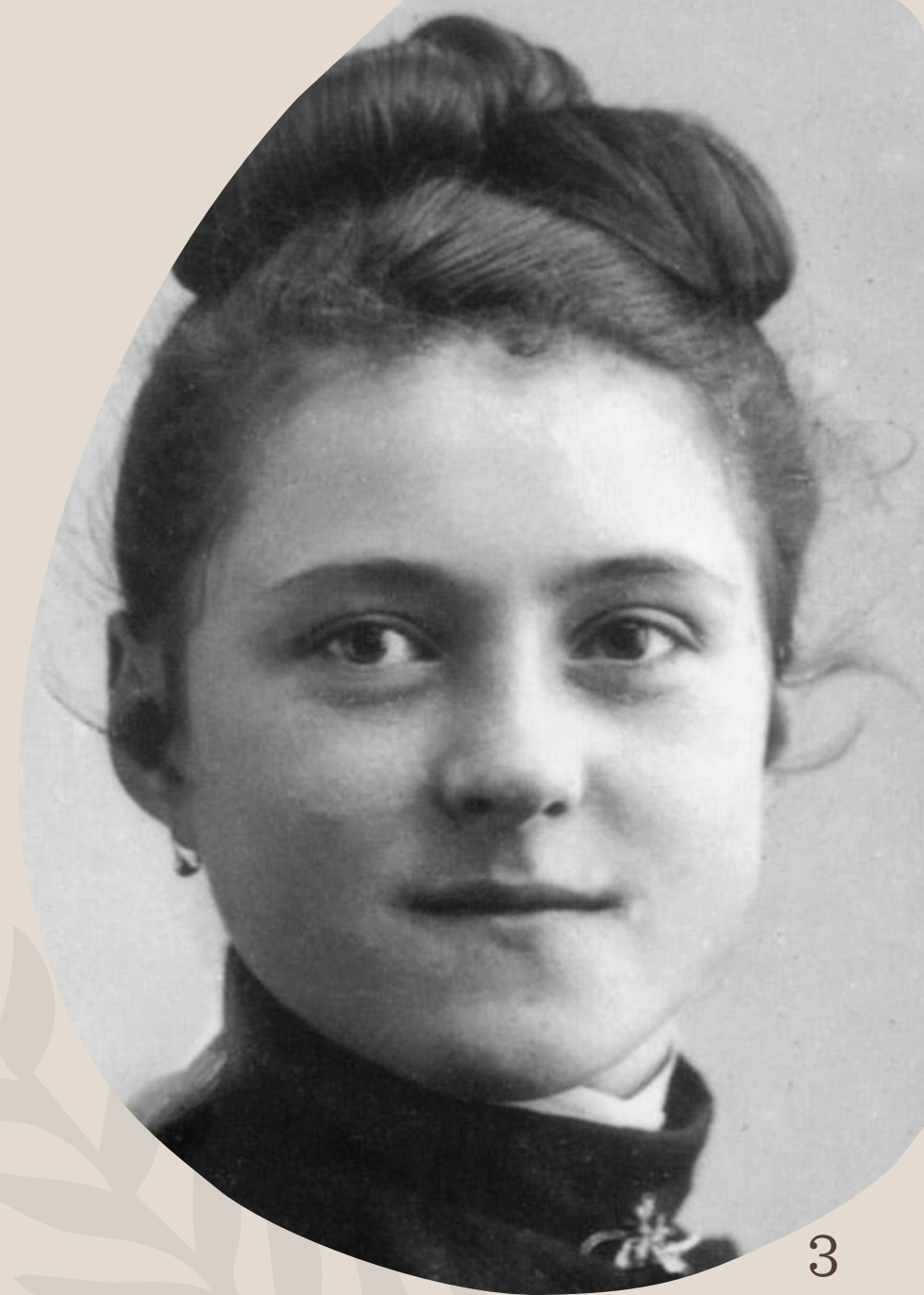
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About The Visit

The reliquary of St. Thérèse last visited the United States twenty-five years ago when over 1 million people turned out at 130 stops in 25 states. Many of these churches witnessed the largest crowds in their history.

The year 2025 commemorates the 100th anniversary of St. Therese of Lisieux's canonization and this centenary visit of her holy relics expects to exceed those previous numbers when the visit commences on October 1. We invite all to come and spend quality spiritual time in prayer and reflection before her reliquary.





“Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face is the youngest of all the "doctors of the Church" , but her ardent spiritual journey shows such maturity, and the insights of faith expressed in her writings are so vast and profound that they deserve a place among the great spiritual masters.”

St. Pope John Paul II

“In the heart of Therese, the grace of baptism became this impetuous torrent flowing into the ocean of Christ’s love and dragging in its wake a multitude of brothers and sisters.”

Pope Francis



The Story of a Soul

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, also known as "The Little Flower," was born on January 2, 1873, in Alençon, France, as Marie-Françoise-Thérèse Martin. She was the youngest of nine children, though only five of her siblings survived to adulthood. Her parents, Louis and Zélie Martin, were devout Catholics who both had a deep commitment to their faith. Zélie was a skilled lacemaker, while Louis worked as a watchmaker. Their household was marked by a strong devotion to prayer and charity, which influenced Thérèse throughout her life.

At the age of four, Thérèse experienced a profound loss when her mother passed away after a long illness. This event left a deep imprint on the young child, and she was later raised by her father and her two surviving sisters, Pauline and Marie. Thérèse found solace in her faith, but her sensitivity and health struggles made her a somewhat fragile and withdrawn child.

At just 15, Thérèse made the decision to join the Carmelite order in Lisieux. Despite her young age, she convinced her father and the church authorities to allow her to enter the convent. She took the name "Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face."



The Story of a Soul

Therese's spirituality was unique in its emphasis on small, everyday acts of love, which she called the "Little Way." She believed that holiness could be found in the simplest acts, done with love and humility, regardless of one's circumstances or external achievements. Thérèse saw herself as a child in the arms of God, confident in His love and goodness. She often wrote of the importance of trusting in God's providence and surrendering to His will, no matter how hidden or obscure one's life might seem.

Despite her physical frailty, Thérèse's spiritual strength was profound. She suffered from a debilitating illness, later diagnosed as tuberculosis, and her health rapidly deteriorated during her final years. Throughout her illness, Thérèse continued to offer her suffering to God, believing that even her pain could be a means of drawing closer to Christ. Her writings from this time reflect her deep spiritual insights, and many of them were later compiled into her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*.

Thérèse died on September 30, 1897, at the young age of 24. Though her life was short, it was marked by profound holiness and a deep, unwavering love for God. After her death, her autobiography became widely read, inspiring people all over the world. In 1925, Pope Pius XI canonized her as a saint, and in 1997, she was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II, making her one of only 36 individuals to receive this distinction.



QUICK FACTS ABOUT ST. THERESE OF LIESUX

- **A Family of Saints:** Thérèse's parents, Louis and Zélie Martin, were both canonized as saints in 2015 by Pope Francis, making them the first married couple to be canonized together.
- **Mystical Experience:** Throughout her life, Thérèse experienced profound mystical encounters with God. These spiritual experiences deepened her faith and led to her unique spiritual insights.
- **Her Last Words:** Her last words were, "My God, I love You!" These words express her deep love and trust in God until her final breath.
- **Canonized in 1925:** St. Thérèse was canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1925, just 28 years after her death.
- **Declared Doctor of the Church:** In 1997, Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church, making her one of the youngest saints to receive this title. The title is usually reserved for those whose writings and teachings significantly impact the Church.
- **Relics Around the World:** Her relics have been taken on a global pilgrimage, allowing millions to connect with her life and spirituality.
- **Feast Day:** Her feast day is celebrated on October 1st, which is the day after her death anniversary. It's a day to honor her life and message.
- **Influential Spirituality:** St. Thérèse's spirituality has influenced millions, particularly in the Catholic Church, but also beyond, as her teachings on humility and love resonate with people of all faiths.
- **Miracles Attributed to Her:** Many miracles have been attributed to St. Thérèse's intercession, including healing miracles, which led to her canonization.

ABOUT RELICS

The Catholic Church venerates relics because they are seen as tangible connections to the holy people of the past—especially saints—and to the divine grace that worked through them. From the early centuries of Christianity, relics were honored. Martyrs' graves became pilgrimage sites, and their remains were kept in altars. This practice was never about worship (which is reserved for God alone), but **veneration**—honoring the saint and, ultimately, God's work in them. Relics are intended to inspire faith and devotion. They are not magical objects, but reminders of heroic Christian lives and signs of God's presence in history.

VISITS SCHEDULE

Royal Oak, Michigan (October 1-8,
2025)

Ten dioceses in California (October 10-
30)

San Antonio, TX; several Carmels in the
South, (October 31-November 14)

Holy Hill, Wisconsin (November 15-18)

Washington, DC and environs
(November 19-30)

Miami, Florida (December 1-8)



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**FOR DETAILS AND VISIT
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