Focus on Faith

A Saint for Our Time

Thérèse of Lisieux (1873–1897) was the youngest of nine children in a devout Catholic family. She received permission to enter the Carmelite community in 1888. Thérèse wanted to die as a missionary. She discovered instead that God had called her to make small sacrifices each day and to live in constant awareness of his presence. Her older sister Pauline, her superior in the community, recognized that Thérèse had special gifts from God and directed her to write her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*. After years of physical and spiritual suffering, Thérèse died from tuberculosis in 1897. She was canonized in 1925 and declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II in 1997.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Imagine that your child was writing an autobiography. What special gifts from God would he or she include? Help your child discern those qualities and talents that make him or her unique.

In Our Parish

Find out what your parish is doing this month to show God’s love to others. Your parish may be in charge of a food pantry, collecting toys and clothing, taking up special collections, or visiting elderly members or those who are sick. Often these activities are listed in your church bulletin. You can also ask your pastor or other staff member what charitable activities are currently going on. Participate as a family.

Focus on Prayer

Your child has been learning about the virtues of faith, hope, and charity. Write a prayer with your child that helps both of you to remember to live according to these virtues.