



The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

20120 Barnett Road

Brooksville, Florida, 34601

Angelica - Fall 2015

The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

October - Month of the Holy Rosary



"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary." - Pope Saint Pius X

'If you say the Rosary faithfully until death, I do assure you that, in spite of the gravity of your sins "you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory." Even if you are on the brink of damnation,...sooner or later you will be converted and will amend your life and save your soul, if - and mark well what I say - if you say the Rosary devoutly every day until death for the purpose of knowing the truth and obtaining contrition and pardon for your sins.' --St. Louis Marie de Montfort

Dear Reader,

On October 3rd we celebrated the feast of St. Theresa of Lisieux, a patron of our Congregation, whose simple and beautiful spirituality has made her the model, not only for religious, but also for countless souls in all walks of life.

Her spirituality, which she called her "little way", consisted in offering all of her prayers and little trials of the day as so many acts of love to God. She said that her vocation was simply "to love," and strove to prove her love of God by offering even the smallest of her merits for the salvation of souls. She was thus able to assist in the great missionary work which her poor health prevented her from actively participating in. She made it her apostolate to support the missionaries in their work of saving souls by her prayers and sufferings.

In September 1890, before she professed her religious vows, she was asked why she had come to Carmel. She answered, "I came to save souls, and especially to pray for priests." Later she said, "Behold, O Lord, the mission You have entrusted to me, to contribute by prayer and sacrifice to the formation of evangelical workers who will save millions of souls whose mother I shall be."



St. Theresa, maybe more than any other saint, teaches that such an apostolate is possible for any one of us.

"Sensational acts of piety are not for me; not for me to preach the gospel or to shed my blood as a martyr, but I see now that all that doesn't matter...."

But this love of mine, how to show it? Love needs to be proved by action....**That shall be my life- to miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly work, always doing the tiniest things right, and doing it for love. I shall suffer all that I have to suffer - yes, and enjoy all my enjoyments too - in the spirit of love, so that I shall always be scattering flowers before Your throne; nothing that comes my way but shall yield up its petals in Your honor.**

St. Theresa truly understood the apostolate of a missionary and practiced it in an heroic degree.

Despite the fact that the Little Flower never left the walls of the Carmelite convent in Lisieux from the time of her entrance when she was 15 years old until her death eight years later, the Congregation of Rites published a decree on December 14, 1927, by a decision of Pope Pius XI, declaring that St. Theresa of Lisieux was the special patroness of missionaries, equal to St. Francis Xavier, with all the rights and privileges that went with this title.

Let us imitate the Little Flower in her generous apostolate by resolving to assist the priests with our prayers and mortifications in the great work of saving souls.

“Those in the Church who perform the function of prayer and continual penance, contribute to the growth of the Church and the salvation of the human race to a *greater degree* than those who cultivate the Lord’s field by their activity: for, if they did not draw down from heaven an abundance of divine grace to irrigate the field, the evangelical workers would certainly receive less fruit from their labors” (Pius XI: Umbratitem)

In Jesus through Mary,
The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas



The Sisters recite a chaplet of the rosary before the Blessed Sacrament exposed during the month of October.



Processional bier decorated by the Novices



Rosary procession on the Feast of the Holy Rosary



A shrine to St. Theresa set up in the Novitiate chapel by the Novices

In imitation of our patron, St. Theresa, the Sisters have a special devotion to assisting the priests in their work. It is a custom of our Congregation for each Sister, on the feast of St. Theresa, to draw from a collection of names a certain priest whom she will assist throughout the year by her prayers and sacrifices.



The students of the Lisieux classroom celebrated the feast of their patron with a treat and a craft.