

## ST. THERESE OF LISEUX

I was born in France in 1873. My mother was a very successful lace maker and my father was a jeweler and watchmaker. I was the youngest of nine children but four died before I was born. The five of us who lived all became nuns.

When I was only 4 ½ my mother died of breast cancer. Then my father sold mum's lacy business and moved us to Liseux.

I was taught at home until I was 8 ½ when they enrolled me in school where my two oldest sisters who were nuns taught. I was at the top of my class except in writing and arithmetic and because I was doing so well, I was bullied by a 14 year old girl who was not having much success at school. I also did not like the rough games that were played at recess and so I developed a fondness for hiding because I did not want anyone to see me because I thought I was inferior.

When I was 9, my sister Pauline, who had acted like my mother after mum died, entered the Carmelite monastery at Lisieux. It was like mum had died all over again! I began having nervous tremors and they could find no cure. I began gazing at a statue of Mary and she smiled at me which began to make me feel better. I told the nuns about this and they questioned me so much that it began to make me think that I had lied which started the inferiority again.

After Christmas Mass, 9 years after mum died "I felt, in a word, charity enter my heart, the need to forget myself to make others happy - Since this blessed night I was not defeated in any battle, but instead I went from victory to victory and began, so to speak, "to run a giant's course."

In 1887, I was in the garden with my father and I told him I wanted to join the Carmelites before Christmas. My father picked a flower and gave it to me along with a story about how Jesus had made the flower grow, protected it and made it perfect for me. I felt that it was the story of my life and that is how I came to be called "Little Flower".

Craft: Make paper roses

### Supplies needed:

a square of 4" x 4" paper

a pencil

a scissors

### Directions:

draw a spiral on the sheet of paper

cut out the spiral

starting on the OUTSIDE, roll up the spiral and keep rolling until there's no paper left

And you're done!

