

'Little Way' Ideas For Secondary School Teachers: Witness Through Service



The relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux will tour England and Wales from 16th September – 16th October 2009.

St Thérèse is the universal Patroness of the Missions and received a teaching which has been called the 'LittleWay'; the saint lived by this pathway which is a commitment to do every day small tasks with love. It is a way of witnessing to the love of God and neighbour and has nothing to do with seeking greatness but selflessness and service. The 'Little Way' is simple and direct and enables others to encounter Christ.

The teaching and example of St Thérèse reminds us all that most of us are not called to do great things but rather small deeds with love. She is quoted as saying:

"Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love."

Often we can be too busy with our own concerns and needs to put St Thérèse's little way into practice and to reach out to others with the love of God.

It is hoped that the 'Little Way Week' (18th – 24th October), which follows the visit of her relics, will encourage people of all ages to decide on seven small actions – one a day for a week – that they will do to witness to their faith through service. Below are some 'little ways' that we can propose to teenagers who may wish to take part in this initiative. A *PowerPoint* resource for schools, produced by the Catholic Education Service, on the life and teaching of St Thérèse, is already available from: www.catholicrelics.co.uk (see 'presentations').

This kind of event provides a window in the school timetable for witnessing to the love of God and neighbour. Whatever actions are done or gestures are made, try to find a way to celebrate it. It could be by having a 'Little Way' wall where people write up their 'little acts' anonymously, or having a liturgy in which the little acts are recalled in some way.

At Home

1. Lighten you parents' or guardians' load by doing a household chore you wouldn't normally do.
2. If you have a younger brother or sister, spend some extra time playing with him / her this week.
3. Offer to make your parents or guardians a cup of tea.
4. Eat dinner with someone you live with without rushing away at the end. Take time to ask them how they are.
5. Try to do your homework without moaning.
6. Phone someone that you know would appreciate hearing your voice.
7. Spend a moment with Jesus when you wake up, thanking him for the new day and asking him to bless it and you. Before you go to sleep, thank him for all the things that have happened that day, say sorry for anything that you've done wrong (your sins), ask him to bless your family, anyone you know who is having a hard time and your night's sleep.

At School

1. When the school corridors get busy, try not to get aggravated or push people.
2. If you've got something good to eat in your lunch box or from the canteen, share it with someone else.
3. There might be someone sat alone this week. Go and keep them company by talking to them.
4. If you see some litter in the playground, pick it up and put it in the bin.
5. Pray for someone you find difficult, ask God to bless them.
6. If an argument takes place, listen to one another. If needs be, say sorry and make peace.

7. Try not to moan when you're homework's being set.

A Prayer For Teenagers

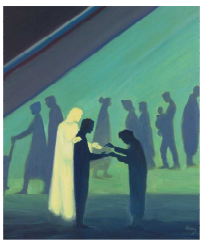
Thank you Father that you love me and are always there for me.
During 'Little Way Week' help me to be like Jesus in the everyday things, and to bring his kindness and care to everyone I meet.
AMEN.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, pray for me.

'Little Way Week' is an initiative of the Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation (CASE).
www.caseresources.org.uk

© CASE August 2009

Other important dates for your diary:



Home Mission Sunday, 20th September 2009

The theme of **Home Mission Sunday** this year is 'They will know Him by the good works that you do'. The Catholic Community is invited to reflect on the ways in which it can share the Faith with others through service and acts of charity. Resources are provided by the Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation (CASE), which is an agency of the Bishops' Conference; on the 20th September some leaflets will be available at the back of Catholic churches (one per family) with additional materials available from: www.caseresources.org.uk. There will be a second collection in support of the work of CASE on this Sunday; whilst this collection is optional the Agency is part-funded by it and relies on diocesan support. CASE also runs the Catholic Enquiry Office,

offering free and confidential information about the Catholic Faith to enquirers: www.life4seekers.co.uk and for non-practising / resting Catholics: www.comehomeforchristmas.co.uk. It has also developed an evangelistic site for 11 – 13 year olds: www.yfaith.co.uk. (Image: © Radiant Light 2009, www.radiantlight.org.uk)



World Mission Sunday, 18th October 2009

The prayers and donations offered on **World Mission Sunday** help to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. It is the Catholic Community's chance to show its love and solidarity with its brothers and sisters; to support them in our shared mission of showing the love of God for all. Thanks to World Mission Sunday everyone can join with the whole Church in bringing spiritual and material help to those who need it most. For more information please see:

http://www.pontificalmissionsocieties.co.uk/mission_sunday/index.php