

'Little Way' ideas for primary 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 away 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."

Isn't this how most of us feel much of the time?

Often we can be too busy with our own concerns and the needs of our own families 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, Mrs Mary Ward, Lay Chaplain at St John Rigby School in Bedford (Northampton Diocese), offers some little ways that we can propose to children who may wish to take part in this initiative. Some badges for children are downloadable from: www.littlewayweek.org.uk. A *PowerPoint* resource for schools which has been produced by the Catholic Education Service on the life and teaching of St Thérèse is already available from: www.catholicrelics.co.uk

Whatever action that is done or gesture that is made as part of this initiative, do encourage the staff and children to share with one another the reason for doing or making it. This kind of event provides a window in the school timetable for witnessing to the love of God and neighbour.

At home

1. Lighten mum's (or your guardian's) work by tidying your bedroom.
2. If you have a baby brother or sister, spend some extra time playing with him / her this week. This will give your parents and / or guardians some free time to rest or do something else.
3. Offer to do an extra job around the house.
4. Try to do your homework without moaning.
5. If you play with children who live close to you, be sure to include everyone in the game.
6. Spend a little 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. The school corridors can be busy places. When in line or walking down the corridors try not to push or shove your classmates.
2. If there is a nice treat in your break or lunch box, share it with someone else.
3. There might be someone sat alone this week. Go and keep them company by talking to them.
4. Sometimes litter can fall in the playground. If you see some, go and pick it up and put it in the bin. This will help the environment.
5. Remember to put things back where you got them from so that the next person can find them easily.
6. Perhaps an argument might break out at playtime. Listen to one another. If needs be, say sorry and make peace.

A prayer for children

Jesus, thank you that you love me and are always there for me;
During 'Little Way Week' help me to share your love with everyone that I meet;
Help me to do little acts of kindness to my family, teachers, classmates and friends.
Please help me during this special week.
AMEN.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, pray for me.

Mrs Mary Ward is the Lay Chaplain at St John Rigby School in Bedford (Northampton Diocese). She has over thirty years teaching experience, is a mother of five children and a grandmother to nine.

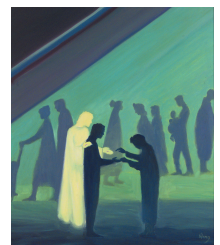
'Little Way Week' is an initiative of the Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation (CASE).
www.caseresources.org.uk

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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