

**‘Little Way’ Ideas For Primary School Teachers:  
Witness Through Service  
1 – 7 October 2011**



St Thérèse is the universal Patroness of Mission and received a teaching which has been called the ‘Little Way’; 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."**

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’ (1 – 7 October) will encourage people to resolve to do seven small actions – one a day for a week – to witness to their faith through service. This year the initiative is being offered in support of the legacy of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the UK who said:

“I know that you will take a lead in calling for solidarity with those in need. The prophetic voice of Christians has an important role in highlighting the needs of the poor and disadvantaged, who can so easily be overlooked in the allocation of limited resources. In their teaching document Choosing the Common Good, the Bishops of England and Wales underlined the importance of the practice of virtue in public life. Today's circumstances provide a good opportunity to reinforce that message.”

Address at Oscott, 19 September 2010

**Whatever action you do or gesture that you decide to make, be ever ready to share the reason for your doing or making it. If the opportunity arises, explain that it is ‘Little Way Week’, share something about your faith in Jesus who calls his followers to serve, as appropriate maybe even give the person or people on the receiving end of your action or gesture a prayer card, or invite them to your home and / or a parish event or Mass.**

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.

**1 – 7 October 2011**



### **Children 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.

### **Children 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.

'Little Way Week' is an initiative of the Home Mission Desk, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.  
[www.catholicchurch.org.uk/homemission](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/homemission)