

Saint Therese of the Child Jesus

1873 - 1897

PARADISE

In the canon of Saint Lawrence, on June 16, 1922 in Florence, Onorio Pugi referred to a healing of Saint Therese of Jesus. "In September 1921 a young mother of three was struck by a terrible illness, accompanied by severe pain that rendered her completely immobile; the minimal amount of movement provoked double the suffering. The specialists that were consulted proposed an operation that would be so painful that the end result would save her life but leave her completely inactive. It was then when visiting the sick; I brought her a pamphlet and a holy relic of Saint Therese of Jesus, and advised her to make a novena to this powerful saint. The sick woman began the prayers right away and she confessed to me that every time she recited them she felt an invisible presence around her that protected her and she even sometimes smelled the scent of a rose. The pain became even more intense; one of the specialists previously consulted was called upon again, but he did nothing but maintain the previous diagnosis and urge her to have the operation. These painful words only reinforced the ardent confidence that this woman had in Saint Therese of Jesus and she implored the saint to come to her aide. On that very same night, towards the wee hours, she felt the supernatural presence of her heavenly protector and she saw a glowing light

appear. The small saint had some roses with her and she said to the sick woman: 'I am Queen in Heaven'. In that same moment the scent of the heavenly flowers that saint carried in her hands filled the whole room. Immediately her sufferings disappeared, in the morning hours she got out of bed and spent the entire day doing domestic chores and spent the evening with her family taking long walks; and she repeated these actions day after day. From that time on she had no trace of that previous illness."

The Roman Missal remembers Saint Therese of Jesus as: "Extremely sensitive and precocious, from the time she was a child she decided to dedicate herself to God. She entered the Carmel of Lisieux and in the Carmelite tradition she discovered the beginning of her spiritual path inspired by simplicity and the humble confidence of the merciful love of the Father. In her contemplative vocation of the love of the Church she opened herself to the ideal missionary, offering her days to God in the silent and joyous offerings to the apostles of the Gospel. In the collection of her thoughts, titled *Story of a Soul*, she chronicles her daily road to the identification of this holy love. Along with Saint Francis Saverio, she is Patron of the Missions."

