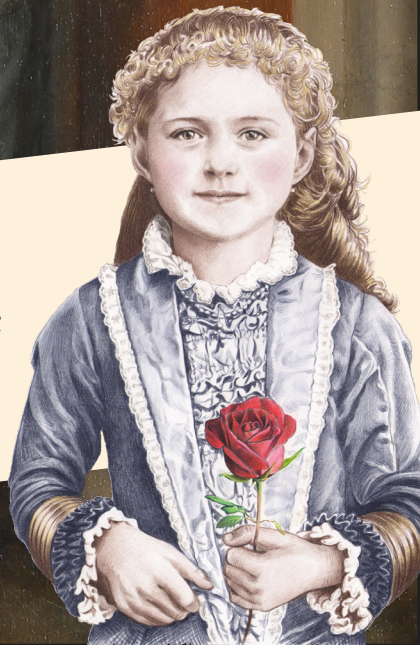




From 08.01
2023
until the 07.01
2024

Jubilee of Sainte Therese of Alençon



Painting made by Sainte Therese of the Child Jesus

« With Therese let us
open the door to Christ »

150° anniversary of the birth of Sainte Therese
100° anniversary of her beatification



« With Therese open the door to Christ »

The year 2023 is a rather extraordinary year with Therese, both for civil society and for the Church.

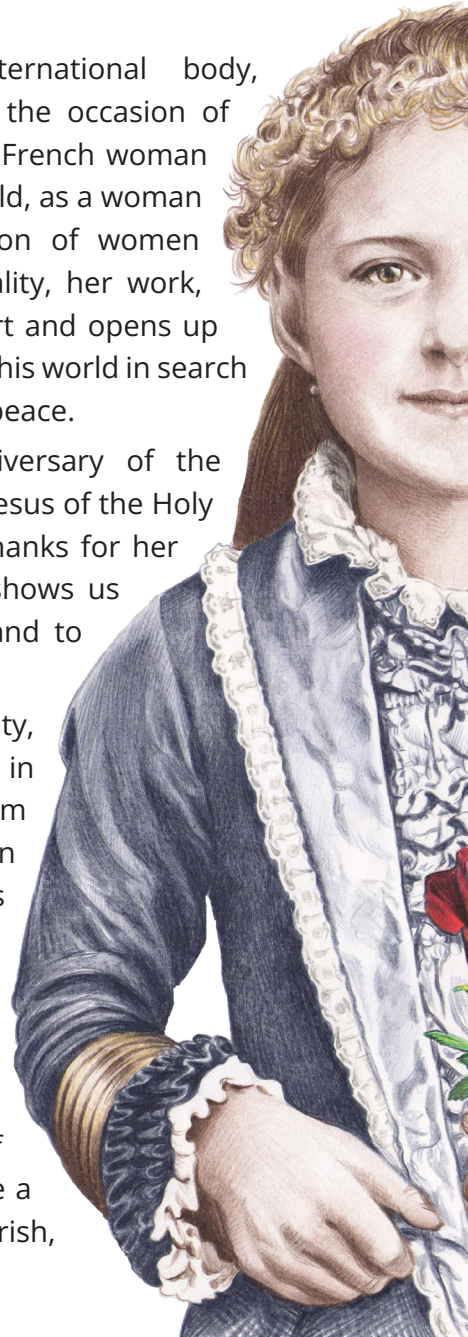
UNESCO, a non-denominational international body, recognises in "Therese of Lisieux", on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of her birth, this French woman who is among the best known in the world, as a woman of culture, education, peace, promotion of women and science who, through her personality, her work, searches the depths of the human heart and opens up possible answers to men and women of this world in search of meaning and personal and universal peace.

And the Church, on the 100th anniversary of the beatification of St. Therese of the Child Jesus of the Holy Face, offers us a jubilee year, to give thanks for her abundant posthumous activity, which shows us how active the saints in Heaven are, and to continue to enjoy her intercession.

For her abundant posthumous activity, which shows us how active the saints in Heaven are, and to continue to benefit from her intercession. May graces strengthen our faith in the communion of saints proclaimed in the CREED.

A jubilee initiative

Why not take advantage of this exceptional year, which will also see the 200th anniversary of the birth of Saint Louis Martin in Bordeaux, to make a pilgrimage, personally, as a family, as a parish,



as a group, as a diocese, to Alençon or to Lisieux and, if possible, to these two shrines which complement each other so well.

A jubilee journey is proposed in the footsteps of Therese and her family, calling for personal conversion and the acceptance of God's salvation for his people. The crossing of the Holy Door will lead us to go and receive in the month, through the sacrament of reconciliation, the forgiveness of sins of reconciliation, the forgiveness of sins and to give thanks for it in the Eucharist. It should be noted that the elderly, the sick and all those who, for a serious reason, do not leave their homes, can also benefit from the graces of the Jubilee. ⁽¹⁾

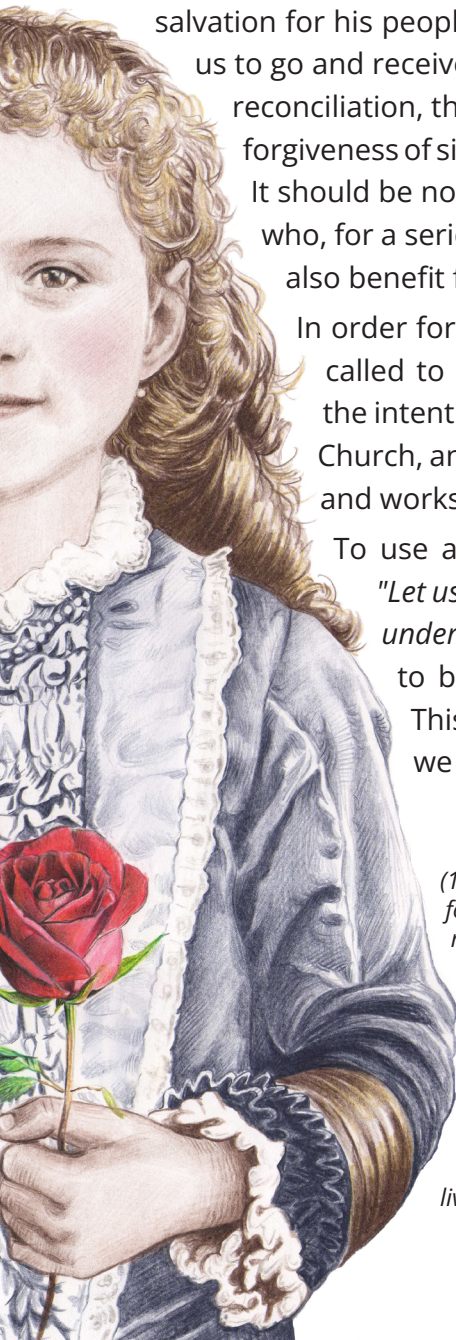
In order for the journey to be fully fruitful, we are all called to carry it forward in solidarity, praying for the intentions of the Pope, as much as for the whole Church, and to make it concrete in the field of prayer and works of mercy (cf. Matthew 25, 35-36).⁽²⁾

To use an expression of Brother Roger of Taizé: *"Let us live the very little of the Gospel that we have understood!"* In doing so, we have every reason to believe that our year will be a good one. This is the wish we can offer to each other as we enter 2023!

Fr. Thierry Hénault-Morel, recteur

(1) **To enjoy a jubilee journey with others**, I sign up for the one that takes place every first Sunday of the month during the year 2023 (departure at 3pm from Maison Martin, 50 rue Saint-Blaise 61000 Alençon (02 33 26 09 87 - sanctuaire@louisetzelie.com - www.sanctuaire-louisetzelie.com)

(2) We were reminded of these works of mercy during the Jubilee of Mercy: Counselling those in doubt; Teaching the ignorant; Warning sinners; Consoling the afflicted; Forgiving offenses; Patiently bearing with annoying people; Praying to God for the living and for the dead...





Stage 1

The family, a place of acceptance of life, its joys and its wounds. School of love

Location: the Martin family home,
birthplace of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus

« To love is to give everything and oneself »
Therese

In the Bible (Isaiah 43:1, 4): *Thus says the Lord ...: Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name ... Because you are precious in my sight, you are valuable and I love you.*

With Therese : « In the family,] Thérèse learned [...] the treasures of indulgence and compassion that are hidden in the heart of the Lord! [God is a Father whose arms are constantly open to his children. Why not respond to this gesture? [...] We must trust in the words of Teresa when she invites the most miserable as well as the most perfect to make use of before God only ... the spiritual poverty of a sinful creature. »

Pius XII, radio message of 11 July 1954



With her parents Louis and Zélie, Thérèse received a loving education:

« To God my dear children, I press you to my heart as I love you, and I entrust you to your holy mother and I entrust you to your holy mother. »

Louis to his daughters, 25 November 1877

« We were all enthusiastic, our hearts overflowed with friendship for one another. »

Zélie C.F. 17

In the teaching of the Popes: « Therese moves towards holiness, emphasizing the centrality of love. »

Saint John Paul II, Thérèse, Doctor of the Church 1997

A proposed journey of personal or community conversion towards love:

- Am I aware of the love that God has for me and for each of his creatures? Through which people have I experienced being loved?
- How does this discovery lead me to love more widely? In what way am I an actor in the progress of the civilisation of love?

Prayer: Lord, you wanted the strength of the Gospel to work in the world like a leaven; watch over all those who have to respond to their Christian vocation in the midst of the occupations of this world: may they always seek the Spirit of Christ so that, in accomplishing their human tasks, they may work for the coming of your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Stage 2

Baptism: welcoming the grace of God

Place: Notre-Dame Basilica,
first stop at the baptistery of Thérèse
*(Go through the usual door and reserve the Holy Door for the second passage,
at the end of the complete journey)*

« O my God, you have exceeded my expectations. »
Therese (Manuscript C 3r^o)

In the Bible (Mark 1:9-11): *In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. There was a voice from heaven: "You are my beloved Son; in you I am well pleased."*

In the teaching of the Popes: « For the Church, to evangelise is to bring the Good News to all parts of humanity and, through its impact, to transform from within, to make new, humanity itself: 'Behold, I am making the universe new' (Rev 21). But there is no new humanity if there is not first of all new men, newness of baptism. »

St. Paul VI "Announcing the Gospel" 2-18

From Thérèse : « I thank you, O my God, for all the graces you have granted me... I want to work for your Love alone, with the sole aim of pleasing you, consoling your Sacred Heart and saving souls who will love you eternally. »

Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Act of Offering to the Merciful Love.



With her parents Louis and Zelie, Therese received an education in wonder:

« Continue to serve the Lord well, He is admirable in His works. »

Louis to his daughters, 1885

« I am always happy with Louis. He makes my life very sweet. He is a holy man, my husband. I want the same for all women. »

Zelie C.F. 1

A journey of personal or community conversion based on wonder:

- To be in turn, through baptism, beloved son or daughter of the Father, to discover that we are brothers and sisters in Christ and called to be so, what inspiration does this give to our lives, in the Spirit?
- To what kind of life in the Church does this open us? To what transformation of our view of ourselves, of others, of the world, does this call us? (*silence*)
- In this place where Saint Thérèse was baptised, we like to profess our faith¹ or, if we are not baptised, to pray to prepare ourselves for it.²

1 Before professing our faith, we can also **renew our baptismal promises**: Beloved brothers and sisters, (we too) we were buried with Christ in the baptism and in the Paschal Mystery, so that with him we might live a new life. Therefore, let us renew the renunciation of Satan made in baptism, let us renew our profession of faith in the living and true God and in his Son, Jesus Christ, in the holy Catholic Church. So then: In order to live in the freedom of God's children, do you reject sin? - **Yes, I reject it.** To escape the power of sin, do you reject that which leads to evil? - **Yes, I reject it.** In order to follow Jesus Christ, do you reject Satan the author of sin? - **Yes, I reject him.** Then say the Profession of Faith.

2 Do we need to be reminded that we can be baptised at any age? A time of catechumenate is offered to help us discover who Jesus is. Do not hesitate to consult your parish.

Profession of Baptismal Faith:

Let us begin by professing our faith:

**« I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.**

Amen. »

Then we can sign ourselves with the holy water by saying: **« Our Father,
Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy
will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen. »**

Prayer : You have willed, Lord, that by the grace of filial adoption we should become children of light; do not allow us to be shrouded in the darkness of error, but grant that we may always shine in the splendour of your truth. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



Stage 3

Vocation and mission: leaving a place and making a move.

Missionary disciple

Location: the Sarthe Bridge - Bridge of the Meeting

« My vocation, I have found it, is love; in the heart of the Church, my mother, I will be love. »
Therese (MsB 3v°)

In the Bible (Mark 4:35): *That day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side"*

In the teaching of the Popes: *« Thérèse did not wait for an ideal way of life, a more perfect environment, before she began to act; rather, she helped to change them from within. Humility is the space of love. The value of actions is measured by their charge of love. Her quest for the Absolute and the transcendence of her charity enabled her to overcome obstacles, or rather to transfigure these limits. With confidence, she immediately reached the essential of the Church, her Heart, which she did not separate from the Heart of Jesus. »*

Saint Paul VI, 2 January 1973, centenary of the birth of Thérèse

From Therese : « *I understood that LOVE alone made the members of the Church act, that if Love were to be extinguished, the Apostles would no longer proclaim the Gospel, the Martyrs would refuse to shed their blood... I understood that LOVE REINFORCED ALL VOCATIONS, THAT LOVE WAS EVERYTHING...* »

Ms B 3v^o

With her parents Louis and Zelig, Therese received an education in the mission:

« *Louis taken pity on a poor man began all sorts of arrangements to help him and give him a home.* »

Zelig to her sister-in-law, C.F. 177, 1876

« *Give, always give and make people happy.* »

Louis to his daughter Marie, 1885

Personal or community conversion programme based on the calling to mission:

- What does "*being a missionary disciple*" mean for me in concrete terms, i.e. living united with Christ and being witness of Him? What way of thinking and/or living must I accept to leave in order to advance in this direction?
- To pass over to another shore, to cross an obstacle, to leave behind habits, to consent to the unexpected, to build bridges, to dare new encounters... What is the Lord calling me to do in this area? To what can I commit myself, on a regular basis, to participate in the proclamation of the Good News of Christ, through a search for coherence in my Christian life, through training, through active participation in the life of the Church, through attention to others, through financial support for the mission near and far... ?

Prayer : God of power and mercy, in your goodness remove from us all that holds us back, so that without any impediment, neither of spirit nor of body, we may accomplish with a free heart what comes from you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



Stage 4

Crossing the Holy Door, that of the the "little way" on which we are going to engage with Therese

Place: Holy Door of the Basilica of Our Lady

« *It is trust and nothing but trust that must lead us to love.* »
Therese (Letter 197)

In the Bible (Revelation 3:20): *Behold, I stand at the door, says Jesus, and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have supper with him and he with me.*

And if before entering, it is a question of opening to Christ who knocks at my door. Note that on his side, there is no door handle. Only we can open to him, as this painting by Thérèse herself shows.

To open to Christ is also to consent to our smallness. Instead of discouraging us, our imperfections can become a springboard that makes us bounce back to Jesus, relying on Him more than on ourselves to move forward in life. This path of humility and trust in Thérèse is what we call her "little way". It is up to us to follow her path....



Enter the Basilica through the Holy Door and proceed to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the apse, behind the altar.

Christ is present in the bread of the Eucharist, which is carefully kept in the tabernacle. A red light reminds us of this. We place ourselves in his presence (bowing or genuflecting).

Then take a seat to meditate:

In the teaching of the Popes: « *Thérèse is one of those "little ones" of the Gospel who let themselves be led by God into the depths of his Mystery. A guide for all...* » Benedict XVI, 6 April 2011

« *The message of Therese, often summarized in what is called the "little way" is none other than the evangelical way of holiness open to all.* »

Saint John Paul II, Teresa, Doctor of the Church 1997

With her parents Louis and Zélie, Thérèse received an education in trust:

« *When I think of what the good God, in whom I have put all my trust, has done for me and my husband; I cannot doubt that his divine Providence watches over his children with particular care [...] The good God protects all those who trust in him, there has never been one neglected.* »

Zélie to her sister-in-law, C.F. 1

« *Do not worry and do not get upset.* »

Louis to his daughters, 1885

A path of personal conversion

With Pope Francis, let's get rid of the temptation of bad listening: « *To be converted [...] is to refuse to believe that we are destined to sink into the quicksand of mediocrity, [and to think] that everything is going wrong and that becoming saints is not for us. This is not so, because God is there. We must trust him, because he is our beyond, our strength. Everything changes if we let him have the first place. This is conversion: it is enough for our door to be open to the Lord for him to enter and do wonders.* »

The grace to ask for

« *Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God things change, that he heals our fears, heals our wounds, transforms dry places into fountains. Let us ask for the grace of hope. For it is hope that revives faith and rekindles charity. It is hope that the deserts of the world are thirsty for today.* » Pope Francis, Apostolic Journey to Greece 5 December 2021

To make our conversion more concrete and obtain the graces linked to the Jubilee:

At the end of this Jubilee journey:

- **I decide to go to confession, to experience the sacrament of reconciliation in the coming month**, with the firm resolution in my heart not to sin again.
- I spend some time in silent prayer to Jesus present in the tabernacle and if possible I **participate in a Eucharist** in the near future. *"The Eucharist is the source and summit of all Christian life"*, says the Second Vatican Council (Lumen Gentium 11).
- **I pray for the Pope's intentions**, in communion with the whole Church
- **I agree to deepen my relationship with the Lord** (reading the Bible, the texts of the day, Eucharist and adoration, personal and Church prayer...) **as well as with others** (close or not so close), putting myself at their service... Specify how. (*silence*)

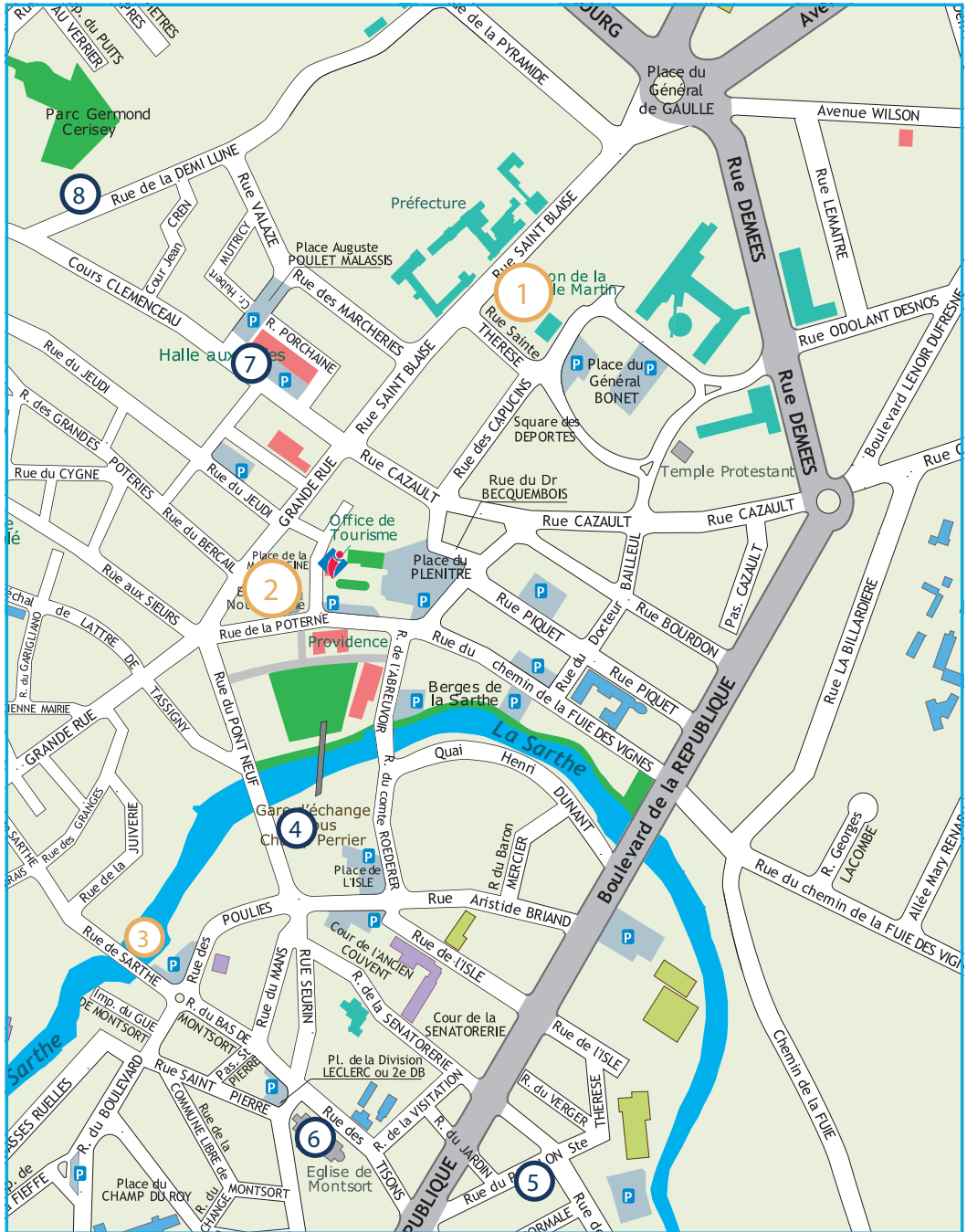
Final prayer : Thank you, Lord, for regularly inviting us to turn to you. You reveal yourself close to us, waiting for us to respond to your Love with Love. May the Jubilee experience that I (or we) have just had bear fruit of life. We ask this through Jesus, the Christ, our Lord.

Choice of possible songs during the journey:

- To love is to give everything X 59-79 The Beatitudes ("Aimer c'est tout donner" X 59-79 Les Béatitudes)
- In You I trust (Refrain) (« En Toi j'ai mis ma confiance »)
- Unpredictable breath KY 28-44 ("Souffle imprévisible »)
- Come Spirit of holiness KY231 ("Viens Esprit de sainteté")
- ...

Note: Two visits to the Basilica, this may be surprising, but the first visit has a particular focus on baptism without going through the Holy Door. The second, at the end of a circuit, concludes the jubilee journey, a little like the groups of pilgrims who return to the Basilica at the end of the day in Alençon to gather and conclude their prayer.

To discover other places in the life of Saint Therese in Alençon



① **House of the Martin family - Birthplace of Saint Therese and Chapel of Saint Therese (50 rue Saint-Blaise)**

Place of residence of the Martin family from 1871 to 1877, (year of the move to Lisieux after the death of the mother). Saint Therese was born in this house on 2 January 1873 and lived there for her first years. With her parents, Saints Louis and Zélie, and her four sisters, she experienced a community of life and love. She learned to live with others, to respect and love the members of her family, Louise Marais the employee, the workers who came on Thursdays, the beggars who were sometimes welcomed at the table. She laughed, she cried. She also learned to pray, to love God and to trust Him. The adjoining chapel was inaugurated in 1928, after the canonisation of Saint Therese, to allow the many pilgrims to pray near her birthplace. The thanksgiving (ex-voto) on the walls of the chapel testify to the many graces already received in various parts of the world.

② **Notre Dame Basilica**

The parish church of the Martin family where the marriage of Louis and Zélie Martin was celebrated on 13 July 1858 (in the chapel to the left of the rear choir), the baptism of Thérèse on 4 January 1873 (in the baptistery chapel to the left of the entrance), and the funeral of Zélie on 29 August 1877. The Martin family experienced many other important moments in their lives here. On Sundays, Thérèse attended mass with her family in the third row on the left side of the nave. It can be said that everything began for her there, through her baptism and the echo that it found in her from her earliest years, thanks to her family and church environment.

③ **The Bridge on the Rue de Sarthe**

Louis and Zélie Martin met there for the first time in early April 1858. It is therefore called the "Bridge of the Meeting". Couples come here to reiterate their "yes". It is a strong symbol. This bridge is a stone's throw from the door of the Hôtel-Dieu (Hospital) where Zélie was unable to realise her dream of consecrating herself to God in the service of the poorest, among the Sisters of Saint Vincent de Paul. But with her we can say that in life, there is not far from the door that closes on a beautiful project, a bridge that opens, where the Lord is waiting for us to realize the best of ourselves. Availability to the unexpected in life. An invitation to cross over to another shore, to build bridges with those on the other side. These are all spiritual attitudes that Saint Theresa learned from her parents and that she would develop in a life of trust in God and love.

④ **The clock shop (35 rue du Pont Neuf in Alençon)**

After completing his training as a watchmaker, Louis Martin acquired this house in 1850 and set up a watch and jewellery shop on the ground floor, "Au remontoir". In addition to an employee and his two nieces, he took in his elderly parents and an orphan nephew, Adolphe Leriche, whom he looked after from 1853 to 1859 and who later succeeded him.

Following their marriage in 1858, Louis and Zélie lived in this house. Their first eight children were born here. During the war against Prussia, when the enemy army entered Alençon, they were obliged to give shelter to 9 soldiers.

In 1871, they moved to rue Saint-Blaise where Louis now devotes all his time to assist his wife in their lace-making business.

Unlike her brothers and sisters, Thérèse did not live in this house, but with Céline, she often came to play with her cousins, particularly during her mother's illness.

⑤ **The Martin Family Pavilion**

Bought by Louis Martin in April 1857, when he was still a bachelor, this small hexagonal tower was for him a place of meditation, prayer and leisure. Situated near the Sarthe river, Louis kept his books and fishing equipment here.

After his marriage, the Pavillon became the ideal place for the children. Thérèse herself has fond memories of it and speaks of it in her Autobiographical Manuscripts - History of a Soul (11v^o). Her older sisters each had a flowerbed to do gardening in, while the younger ones, between two games, helped to pick strawberries and gooseberries...

It was in the garden of the Pavilion that Louis first installed the statue of the Virgin of the Smile, so called because of the grace of the smile that the Virgin Mary gave to Thérèse when she was a child in Lisieux, at Pentecost 1883, when she was at her worst. This statue will follow the path of her family from the rue du Pont Neuf in Alençon to the Carmelite convent in Lisieux.

⑥ **The church of Saint-Pierre de Montsort**

Montsort was the parish of Louis and his parents from 1830, then of the Martin couple and their family from 1858 to 1871. Thérèse's eight brothers and sisters were baptised in the present baptistery, which was taken from the old church. The new church was built in the 1880s, almost on the site of the old one. Thérèse came to pray here on her trips to Alençon with her family.

⑦ **La Halle aux Toiles**

Used for commercial purposes, this hall was also used to hold important events for the Alençon region, such as the Industrial, Agricultural and Artistic Exhibitions, which promoted these activities. During the exhibition of 20 June 1858, the lace factory of Saint Zélie was awarded the silver medal. Zélie was only 26 years old and less than a month away from her wedding.

⑧ **The Poor Clare Monastery**

While Louis Martin participated in various Christian groups to live a life of prayer and commitment to the service of others, Zélie found the Poor Clare Sisters to be the place where she found her strength. It was in this community that Leonie, one of Therese's sisters, tried a short experience of religious life before gradually finding her way to the Visitation of Caen.

The Town Hall

Saints Louis and Zélie Martin celebrated their civil marriage here on Monday 12 July 1858 at 10 o'clock in the evening.

Following in the footsteps of Therese in the Pays d'Alençon

The house of Therese's nurse

Unable to breastfeed her children from Hélène onwards, the fourth daughter, and as unpasteurised cow's milk often led to enteritis which took the babies away, Saint Zélie had to entrust Thérèse to a nursery, Rose Taillée, who saved her.

The child stayed for 13 months at the Carrouge in Semallé, in the care of this family, before returning to Alençon. It was in this farm worker's house that Therese took her first steps. A deep friendship was created with the Martin family who never failed to come and visit Thérèse in the countryside.

Saint Denis-sur-Sarthon

It was near this village, at Le Pont, that Saint Zélie was born, in the gendarmerie where her father was a mounted gendarme. And it was in the church of Saint Denis that she was baptised on 24 December 1831. Before moving to Alençon, Zélie spent 13 years of her youth there, marked by her mother's rigour, including her religious discipline, and the lack of affection expressed. In reaction, Therese and her sisters benefited from an education rich in a love that they continued to live among themselves.

Ste Anne de Champfrémont

As a young girl, Zélie enjoyed going on pilgrimage with her family and parish to this shrine dedicated to St. Anne and the Holy Family. As an adult she liked to invite family and friends. Together with the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Sées, where she went every year on 8 December, these were the two shrines she enjoyed, allowing Louis, who was very fond of pilgrimages, to go to La Butte Chaumont, Chartres, Lourdes, and as far as Rome. And there it was in the company of Therese, to obtain entry into the Carmelite Order at the age of 15...)

We can also join Thérèse where her family liked to go on pilgrimage: the **Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the cathedral in Sées** and find her in enchanting places for walks with her family and friends: **Saint Céneri and Saint Léonard des Bois, the forests of Perseigne or Ecouves** or, close to the Pavillon on the outskirts of Alençon, the path of the **Fuye des Vignes**, now a beautiful Natura 2000 area.



O Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus, see the trust I place
in you and accept my intentions.

Intercede for me with the Virgin Mary who came to
smile upon you at the moment of trial. Look also at all
those who suffer and who are in pain, and all those who
pray to you: I unite myself to them as to my brothers.

Through the graces we desire, if this is the Lord's will,
give us strength in Faith, Hope and Love on the path of
life, and to be helped at the time of death, so that we
may pass from this world into the peace of the Father,
and to know the eternal joy of the children of God.

Amen



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Visit our website

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