

DAY IN THE LIFE OF SAINTS

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My confirmation saint has had a significant influence over the rest of my life. Not only does she spark inspiration to love others as much as you can, no matter how little the act may seem, but she is a reminder of a person in my life which I hold dear to my heart. The saint that I chose is St. Therese of Lisieux, also known as St. Therese of the Little Flower.

If you are unfamiliar with this saint, she is most famous for her efforts put into her life to love others, gaining the title of the Little Flower for many reasons. The first was because she was often seen by others as small and sensitive, like a flower. But keeping with that theme, she believed that she could love others and show God's love through her actions, like a little flower would show beauty among wilting plants. As a young woman, she wanted to join the Carmelite nuns like her sisters had before her but was turned away because everyone said she was too young. She persisted, going from priests, to bishops, to finally being accepted. There she continued to serve others, loving them in the "little ways" up until her early death at the age of 24. These little ways included a habit of mental prayer, which she developed when she was sick but still wanted to pray with her family. Another little way was to choose to accept others or show love, like those in the convent which she struggled to love. These little ways have inspired many, myself included, showing that even ***the effort put in by trying your hardest to love someone is trying your hardest to be Christ-like.***

Like I said there are two reasons for picking my saint, but all the events leading up to doing so all fell into place as I got ready to be confirmed. The first event was actually the passing of my mom. My mom was actually named Therese, after this saint specifically, and I believe she embodied the title of the little flower in every way. She was one of the friendliest people you could ever meet and would go out of her way to help others. Like St. Therese, she was also kind of hidden, never asking for recognition for the things she did because that was just what she wanted to do. My mom instilled a strong sense of faith, although I was too young to understand what it all meant at the time. Sadly, my mom passed when I was young but I still carry her memory, and it was especially present at my second year Confirmation retreat.



At this point, I had no idea which saint I was going to pick because confirmation was still a few months away. But that night, I remember doing an activity where we had to write stuff on a paper shaped like a heart and tear in up every time we experienced something that would break our heart. On the back of my heart, I had drawn a rose without thinking about it. After the activity, I turned over the pieces and I found a fully intact rose. This rose would stick with me for the rest of the retreat and even act as a source of tears when I looked down at my name tag during my first full-blown holy hour and looked back up at the Blessed Sacrament. **This fully-intact little flower doodle stood as a symbol to strive to be like St. Therese and my mom who lived to love others and show God's beauty even in the littlest of ways.**

My connection to my confirmation saint is something that I hold close to my heart. St. Therese inspires me to serve at church and stands as a reminder to love, even when it isn't easy to do so. She also stands as a reminder of my mom, who did the same throughout her life, and where I came from to get to where I am now. St. Therese also inspires me to grow closer to God, which became more apparent after I got confirmed, when I joined more ministries like Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Youth Ministry. Now, especially being a YAM or young adult minister instead of a new youth leader, my connection to my saint becomes stronger. The more I continue to learn about the faith, the more I can understand the significance of my saint's story and I become even more confident because she is my confirmation saint.

A saint should be someone who's story inspires you and you have a connection with. This connection could be their specific patronage like St. Cecilia as the patron saint of music. I also think your saint could be thought of as a "homie". For example, whenever my saint is quoted or mentioned in a talk, I get excited because I think of her as a homie, or should I say a heavenly homie. When I say 'homie', I think of the rules we made and followed for HSYM in the beginning of my first year leading. One of the rules, Rule #5, said, "Protect the Homies". This referred to any youth leader, YAM, or adult chaperones in the ministry and set a precedent to always be there for them like homies should. **My saint is my heaven homie** because she will always be there to intercede for me, like asking a homie to pray for you in times of need. And lastly, **a saint should be someone that inspires you to grow closer to God. We all have the potential to be saints, no matter what we have done in the past.** The lives of the saints should stand as a reminder that God is always there for us, as our Father, willing to love us with all His heart despite our missteps. When we choose our saints, it should humble you to want to make your own saintly story with them as models of how God's love played out in their lives.

