

Daughters of Mary, Mother of Our Savior



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Saint Joseph's Novitiate

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*"It is a beautiful thing to be the spouse of Jesus Christ.
In Him is perfect happiness, perfect peace, every satisfaction, every good."
- St. Gerard Majella*

FROM THE MOTHER GENERAL

Dear Friends of the Daughters of Mary,

As the Vestition and Profession Ceremonies for our Congregation approach, there arises in my heart a deep appreciation for my vocation to the religious life and immense gratitude to God for each of the Sisters He has called to the Daughters of Mary. Although these women and their families have made sacrifices to follow Christ's call, they soon realize the abundant graces that God bestows upon them in return. The following story is of a father who came to know both the sacrifices and benefits of religious life.

A Good Father's Perspective

In France in the 1800s, there lived a man who was a widower. Two of his daughters had entered the convent and three daughters still remained at home. In his affection, he called the youngest his little Queen. Though she knew he counted upon her to care for him in his old age, this daughter had a great longing to follow her sisters in religious life.



The following account of what transpired between the father and daughter is taken from this young lady's autobiography: *I did not know how to speak to Papa. How could I ask him to part with his little Queen when he had already made the sacrifice of his two eldest daughters? Moreover, that year he had been stricken with a serious attack of paralysis, and though he had recovered quickly, we were full of anxiety for the future. I chose the feast of Pentecost on which to make my great disclosure. All day I prayed for light from the Holy Ghost.*

In the afternoon, I found the opportunity I so much desired. Papa had gone into the garden, and was admiring the wonders of nature. Without saying a word, I sat

down by his side, my eyes already wet with tears. He looked at me with indescribable tenderness, and, pressing me to his heart, said, "What is it, little Queen? Tell me."

Then as if to hide his own emotion, he rose and walked slowly up and down, still holding me close to him. Through my tears I spoke of Carmel and of my great wish to enter soon. He too wept but did not say one word to turn me from my vocation; he simply pointed out to me that I was still very young to decide on so grave a matter. I insisted, urgently pleading my cause, and because of his upright, generous nature, our noble father soon yielded. For a long time, we continued our walk in the garden; my heart was relieved, and Papa no longer shed tears.



An Honor For a Family

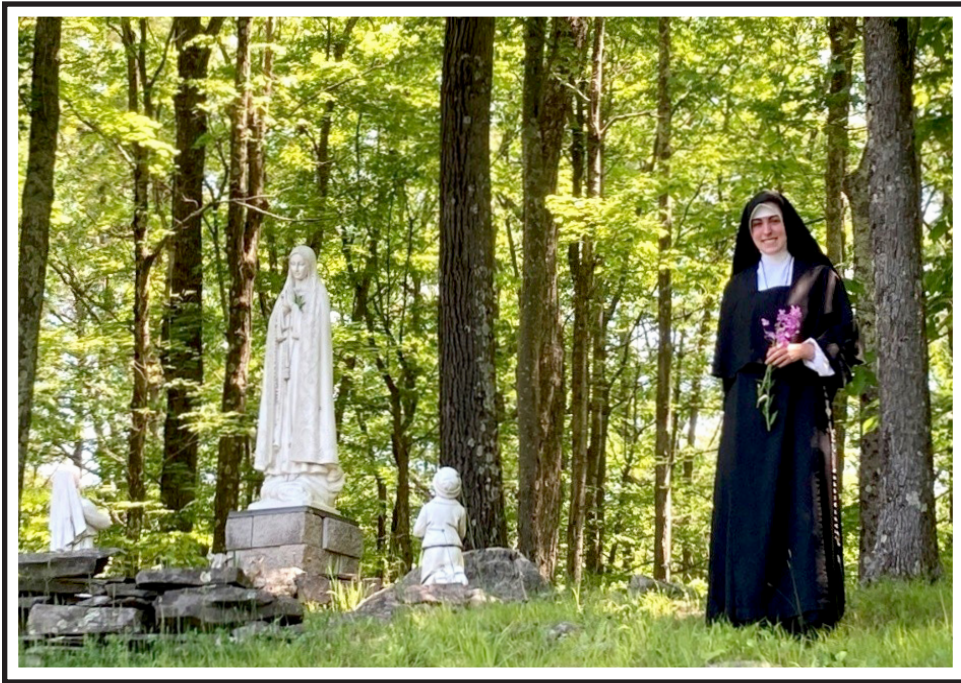
This is the story of St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower. It is also the story of a truly great man, Mr. Louis Martin, her father. It is not easy for any parent to part with a child. Mr. Martin wept, but he understood that it was God who had given him this child, and that it was his duty not only to allow his child to follow God's call, but even to assist and encourage her to do so. Due in great measure to her father's support, the whole world received St. Therese as an example of holiness and as an intercessor in Heaven. What a debt we owe to this truly Catholic father.

Mr. Martin loved his daughters very much, but he also esteemed religious life. When a fourth daughter told him of her intention to enter the convent, in the midst of tears, he exclaimed, "Come, Celine, let us go together before the

Blessed Sacrament to thank the Lord for all the graces He has granted to our family, and for the honor He has done me in choosing spouses in my home.” He wrote to his daughters already in Carmel, “I must tell you, my dear children, how urgently I feel the need of thanking God, and of having you join me in thanking Him; for I feel that, although very humble, our family has the honor of being numbered among the privileged ones of our adorable Creator.”

Abundant Blessings

We should all consider an invitation to religious life a precious gift from God, for St. Alphonsus Liguori tell us, “After Baptism a vocation to religion is the greatest grace which God can bestow.” Thus, the utmost gratitude is due to God for bestowing this privilege upon a young lady and her family. Our Savior, on His part, bestows the most abundant blessings on those who answer His call and on the generous parents who encourage their children to do so.



May Our Lord inspire in all of us a greater appreciation for this wondrous gift of a religious vocation. May He continue to bless us with many Sisters to return love and gratitude to His Sacred Heart and to work for the salvation of souls. Thank you for your prayers and support. Each day we implore God to bless you for your kindness to us.

In the Sacred Heart,

Mother Mary Bosco, F.M.

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Building Update

Thanks to your generosity we have reached our milestone of raising \$800,000 for our subfloor campaign. This concrete will be poured in September.

The workmen are currently setting the steel beams and columns for our new building. However, by the end of summer, we will be out of funds. We urgently need your help so that construction can continue. Every donation made now will help us avoid building delays and cost increases. No gift is too small, and God will reward your generosity a hundredfold.