

called "the most wonderful man in the world!" Jeanne planned her wedding, the dress, the menu, the announcement, and all the things having to do with the wedding.

Therese learned from the example of Jeanne. Therese did not want to *do less* for her beloved Jesus, than Jeanne did for her Francis. Therese even went so far as to amuse herself composing a letter of invitation to her profession of marriage to Jesus, which was comparable to Jeanne's own letter of invitation, and this is what Therese wrote:

THE WEDDING LETTER

Letter of Invitation to the Wedding of Sister Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face.

God Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth, Sovereign Ruler of the Universe, and the Most glorious Virgin Mary, Queen of the Heavenly Court, announced to you the Spiritual Espousals of Their August Son, Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, with little Therese Martin, now Princess and Lady of His Kingdoms of the Holy Childhood and the Passion, assigned to her in dowry by her Divine Spouse, from which Kingdoms she holds her titles of nobility — of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face.

Monsieur Louis Martin, Proprietor and Master of the Domains of Suffering and Humiliation, and Madame Martin, Princess and Lady of Honor of the Heavenly Court, wish to have you take part in the Marriage of their Daughter, Therese, with Jesus, the Word of God, the Second Person of the Adorable Trinity, Who through the operation of the Holy Spirit was made Man and Son of Mary, Queen of Heaven.

Being unable to invite you to the Nuptial Blessing which was given on Mount Carmel, September 8, 1890, (the heavenly court alone was admitted), you are nevertheless asked to be present at the Return from the Wedding which will take place Tomorrow, the Day of Eternity, on which day Jesus, Son of God, will come on the Clouds of Heaven in the splendor of His Majesty, to judge the Living and the Dead. The hour being as yet uncertain, you are invited to hold yourselves in readiness and to watch. + + +

THERESE'S DESIRES

"When I pronounced my holy vows, many were the graces I asked... I begged from the King all possible favors for His ungrateful subjects. *No one was forgotten.* I longed that *every sinner* on earth might be converted, *all captive souls* in Purgatory *set free*, and on my heart, I bore this letter containing what I desired for myself:

O Jesus my divine Spouse, grant that my baptismal robe may *never be sullied*. Take me from this world rather than allow me to stain my soul by committing the least willful fault, May I never seek or find aught but Thee alone! May all creatures be as *nothing* to me and I as *nothing* to them. *May no earthly thing disturb my peace!*

O Jesus, I ask for peace... peace, and above all, love... love without limit. I ask that for Thy sake, I may die a martyr — give me martyrdom of soul or body. Or rather give me both.

Grant that I may fulfill my promises in all their perfection; *that no one may think of me, that I may be forgotten and trodden underfoot as a grain of sand.* I offer myself to Thee, O my Beloved, that Thou mayest ever perfectly accomplish Thy Holy Will in me without creatures placing any obstacle in the way. + + +

MY VOCATION IS LOVE

Therese was to discover that her vocation was love. She said, "To live by love is to go through life sowing peace and joy in Hearts."

Therese strived to serve God with peace and joy *at all times*, as *everything* is a gift from God.

+ + +

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Human Love Ends



**"Oh! How I wish I could make you realize what I mean!
It is trust, and nothing but trust,
that must bring us to Love.
Fear brings us only to Justice."**

Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face

HUMAN LOVE ENDS

by Dr. Rosalie Turton

The Catholic Church had annulled Barbara's marriage. Now, partly for the sake of her children, not yet even teenagers, and because she was lonely and wanted the companionship and security of a loving husband and a good family life, she was considering marrying Brian. He was a professional man who loved her very much. However, she was concerned because he seemed to be disinterested in the Roman Catholic faith, and he was quite active in another religion.

The children's father doted upon them, but lived with questionable morals, and he scoffed at religion. They were exposed to many evil influences, and Barbara thought that a "perfect" and stable family love is what they needed. Besides that, she wanted to be a housewife taking care of her family and her home, and not have to be out working and away from her family in order to support them.

Did she love Brian? In a way, I suppose. She certainly felt that he was a kind man... and very stable. For answers as to what to do with her life, she decided to go with a group to Medjugorje, where she could pray more, and to see if Our Lady and Our Savior, Jesus, would provide some direction for her in that holy place.

One evening after dinner, she decided to climb the mountain, and when she arrived at the top, it was then already dark. She noticed that she was alone there, except for one man, and at first she became frightened by being in that situation.

But then, she saw that he was picking up the garbage left by other pilgrims and putting it into a plastic bag. She thought to herself, "He must be a good man, wanting to keep this holy place clean," and she relaxed and concentrated on her inner conversations with Jesus and Mary.

She thought that she heard a feminine voice in her mind, giving her an answer, but she was not sure. Then she asked Jesus what to do... how to obtain the love, peace, and happiness that she was seeking, and what was best for herself and her children.

At that moment the man who was with her on the mountain, said, "*Human love ends. Only Jesus and Mary are perfection and eternal.*"

After that, he was gone from the mountain. She wondered how he could know what she was thinking? Why did he say such a thing to her? Was he really a man or an angel?

At any rate, she felt that she knew what she must do... to keep God in first place, and then let all else be directed by Him, recalling (Matt 6:31-33), "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His justice; then all else shall be given unto you.*"

JOHN BOSCO AND GRIEF

When St. John Bosco was only two years old, his father, Francis Bosco, died of pneumonia. Just before Francis died, he told his wife, Mama Margaret, to take very special care of John, the littlest one of his three sons. The child was full of grief by his mother's tears, and also because he had an intensely loving heart, which was noticeable even at that tender age.

As a boy, he had close pets, and each time one died, young John would greatly grieve. He realized that human love for people, animals, and things often came to a sorrowful end, and he vowed to protect himself from such sorrow and



place his love in what would never end... God.

He was poor, and with only a meager education and income, but still as a child, and against all odds, he vowed to become a priest, not just to avoid the sorrow of the inevitable losses of human love, but more so, to bring others, especially children, to know the love, the security, and the joy found only in loving God.

HOW HUMAN LOVE AND GOD'S LOVE DIFFER

One day, a saint was speaking with Jesus, and He told the saint, that human love and God's love differ in three substantial ways.

1. Human love is *short in duration*, even if it last 100 years, while God's love is *eternal* and never ending.
2. Human love is so *often inconstant*, even among the greatest of lovers, while God's love is *forever constant and unconditional*.
3. Human love is so *cold*, even among the most ardent of lovers, while God's love is *an intense flaming furnace* of perfect charity *blazing* for all of eternity.

THE MARTIN'S LOVE FOR GOD

One Ash Wednesday, Louis Martin gave his young daughter, Therese (later St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, also called the Little Flower) a live baby lamb as a gift. Therese was delighted, but that afternoon, when it was only one day old, the lamb died.

She wrote to her sister Marie, "It had been too cold in the wagon where it was born... it was hardly born when it suffered and then died.

"You do not realize... how much the death of this little animal made me reflect. Oh yes! On this earth we must attach ourselves *to nothing*, not even the most innocent things, for *they fail us at the moment when we are least expecting it.*"

THERESE IN CARMEL

On her "Clothing Day," her Papa, who was not well, came and met her at the enclosure door, his eyes full of tears, and pressing her to his heart, he exclaimed, "Ah, here is my little Queen!"

Then giving her his arm, they made their solemn entry into the public chapel. This was indeed his day of triumph... his last feast here below; the sacrifice was now complete — all of his children belong to God, four in Heaven, and the five girls in convents.

(Celene had already told him that, latter on, she also meant to exchange the world for Carmel, whereupon he cried out in a transport of joy, "Come, let us visit the Blessed Sacrament together and thank God for all the graces He has bestowed upon our family, especially for the great honor He has done to me in choosing His spouses from my household. Were I possessed of anything better, I would hasten to offer it to Him.")

That something better may have been his own self as a victim soul, and his agreement to suffer for love of God... and God accepted it.

A FAMILY WEDDING

About the same time as Therese was to be professed and to receive her veil, her cousin Jeanne was about to marry Dr. Francis La Neele, whom Jeanne