



nseattlecatholicyouth.org

Saints of the Day:

Sts. Louis and Zelig Martin



Louis Martin (1823-1894) was a watchmaker by trade who was drawn to the spiritual life. He settled down in Alencon, a small city in France. At twenty-two, young Louis sought to enter religious life, but he had to abandon his hopes because he could not complete the required studies. Zelig Guerin (1831-1877) was born into a military family. She described her childhood and youth as "dismal." Her mother and father showed her little affection. As a young lady, she sought unsuccessfully to enter the religious order of the sisters of the Hotel-Dieu. Zelig then learned the Alencon lace-making technique and soon mastered this painstaking craft. Richly talented, creative, eager, and endowed with common sense, she started her own business and became quite successful. Louis and Zelig eventually met in Alencon, and married on July 13, 1858. They had nine children, but only 5 girls survived to adulthood. The youngest, Marie-Francoise-Therese Martin, would later be known as St. Therese, the "Little Flower."

What is God's Plan for My Life?

Confirmation Prep, Session 7

Opening Discussion...

- How do I know what God is asking of me?
- Is there a specific discernment process?
- What fears do I have about God calling me to priestly or religious life?
- Do I have to commit to religious life or can I check it out first?
- Do I have to give up stuff in marriage too?

Topic of the Day...

- If you are discerning a priestly or religious vocation you can visit an order to see if it is the place for you.
- There are also steps in the process of becoming a priest or religious that allow for you to discern out of that vocation before final vows.
- The marriage vocation takes preparation and discernment as well.
- Pray to God asking for his will to be done in your life.
- God's plan for you will bring you peace.
- God works with our decisions as well. Be proactive in accepting the paths God puts before you.
- When you choose to do God's will you can stop worrying and accept the doors that open to you.
- All vocations require sacrifice and a "giving up" of something. Put God first and you will feel confident in doing His will

Silent Prayer/Big Questions...

- Do I sense God calling me to a particular vocation? Marriage, Priesthood, Religious life?
- Lord, help me to know your will for me and give me the desire to do it.

Scripture Reflection

Matthew 4:18-22

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zeb'edee and John his brother, in the boat with Zeb'edee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Prayer to Saints Louis and Zélie Martin

Saints Louis and Zélie Martin,
after having had the desire for religious life,
you heard the Lord's call to the vocation of marriage.

You are the "parents without equal"
of whom your daughter Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus
speaks;

the fortunate parents of Léonie,
the Servant of God, Sister Françoise-Thérèse;
of Marie, Pauline, and Céline,
transplanted to Mount Carmel;
and of the four children taken from your affection in their youth:
Hélène, Joseph, Jean-Baptiste, and Mélanie-Thérèse.

You gave all glory to God
through your humble and patient work,
your commitment to the poor,
and your family life,
where reigned the happiness of loving and being loved.

You lived your daily life concretely
through the joys and sorrows of your existence.

You love us as your own children,
with the heart of a father and the heart of a mother,
because you are the friends of God.

Listen to our prayer and our request
(state the request . . .)
and intercede for us with God the Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

