



The Plays of St. Thérèse of Lisieux: Pious Recreations

Semester Course: Spring 2023



ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: GRADES 6-9

Class Dates: Starts Monday, January 23, 2023 and runs through Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

Class Times: Monday & Wednesday from 11:00am-12:15pm EST

Office Hours: By appointment

Instructor: Mrs. Monika Minehart

E-mail: mminehart.scholeacademy@gmail.com

****THIS IS THE SECOND OF A TWO PART CLASS, IF DESIRED. THE FALL SEMESTER WILL COVER A READING OF *STORY OF A SOUL: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX* AND THE SPRING SEMESTER WILL COVER THE READING OF *THE PLAYS OF ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX: PIOUS RECREATIONS*. REGISTRATION FOR BOTH COURSES IS OPTIONAL AND STUDENTS MAY TAKE ONLY ONE OR BOTH.****

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

St. Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897) was a French Catholic who became a Carmelite nun at 15 years old and died when she was just 24. Over a period of roughly three years near the end of her life, St. Thérèse composed eight "theatrical pieces" to be performed by her fellow sisters during special occasions in the convent. Her plays touch on the lives of saints as well as the life of Christ.

In this course, we will read the following three plays contained in the text *The Plays of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: Pious Recreations*.

"The Mission of Joan of Arc"

"Jesus at Bethany"

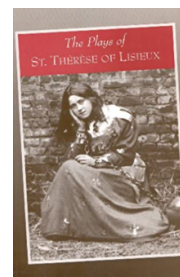
"The Divine Little Beggar of Christmas"

Class time will consist of dramatic and reflective re-reading of selections of the above plays by students as well as contemplative dialogue and journal sharing about the meaning of the plays and how they relate to our own spiritual lives.

As a final project, students will create their own spiritual plays and will have the opportunity to present a reading of their play by casting fellow students to assist in the performance.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS:

- The Plays of St. Therese of Lisieux "Pious Recreations"
 - Paperback (ICS Publications, 2008)
 - Translated by Susan Conroy & David Dwyer
 - Must have physical copy, digital versions not permitted



- The Mission of Joan of Arc: Issues #1 & #2 (Voyage Comics)

*Available for a low cost on <https://catholic.market>

- Bible (New American Bible) (must have personal physical copy)

ALSO REQUIRED: Journal (unlined), pencil, colored pencils, sticky notes, and sticky note tabs/page markers.

SCHEDULE FOR: CATHOLIC SPIRITUAL CLASSICS: ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

CLASS SESSIONS DATES:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 11:00am-12:15pm (EST) for 16 weeks and 32 classes*

January (3): 23, 25, 30

February (6): 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, [Winter Break] 27

March (9): 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29

April (6): [Holy Week] 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26

May (8): 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24 [End 2nd Semester]

**Please note the above dates and times are the anticipated class sessions for this course. However, all dates are subject to change as the instructor's circumstances might dictate (e.g. illness, family emergency). Any classes canceled by the instructor will be made up at an alternate time designated by the instructor.*

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment. During "Office Hours" students may raise questions, seek assistance, or review class material.

COURSE MAP

January/February

The Mission of Joan of Arc: Issues #1 & #2 (Voyage Comics)

"The Mission of Joan of Arc" - St. Thérèse of Lisieux

March

"Jesus at Bethany" - St. Thérèse of Lisieux

The Gospel of Luke (10:38-42)

Begin brainstorming for student plays.

April

"The Divine Little Beggar of Christmas" - St. Thérèse of Lisieux

The Gospel of Luke (1: 26-38, 2: 1-20)

May

Student-created "Pious Recreations": Drafting, Rehearsals, Final Performances

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students enrolling in this course should have a moderate-advanced reading level and be willing to use a dictionary to look up words as often as necessary for comprehension. We will use our journals to write down spiritual vocabulary and descriptions of characters. These pages will need to be scanned and submitted for a weekly homework grade.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS IN ACTION

Students will be reading three plays written by St. Thérèse for her fellow Carmelite sisters. Students are expected to read the plays at home prior to class when assigned and should be willing and prepared to read aloud selections in class as well.

Students should allow themselves a peaceful location in their home or outside for reading assignments in order to have prayerful contemplation while reading. They must not rush their assignments, but give ample time for reflection, despite what may look like a small amount of reading. The time, day, and location of each student's reading and homework assignments will vary. However, here are some potential options that may work for your student:

- coming early to Mass or staying after Mass to do reading in the church
- reading during Adoration
- reading at bedtime when the house is quiet (as long as still able to be alert)
- setting an alarm one day a week to wake up earlier than siblings/family members to do reading in the quiet of the morning
- finding a peaceful spot outside to read without unnecessary distractions

Students will be expected to write and/or draw weekly in their journals and be willing to share, to some degree, with their classmates. Journal entries will not be submitted, but parents must sign off on journal completions each week in order to ensure that students do not rush or merely write a couple of sentences to finish the assignment in haste. Drawing, if reflective and following the prompt of the journal assignments, is equally acceptable to writing.

The final project for this course is the writing of a short spiritual play. After reading three different spiritual plays, students will select either a story from the life of a saint, a passage of scripture, or a modern spiritual event (attending Mass, Confession, Adoration) with at least one character, but not to exceed 4 characters (unless deemed necessary for sake of story). Students will write multiple drafts to be peer-reviewed by classmates as well as by the instructor. A final performance will be given in class and fellow students will be asked to assist in the reading of their peers plays as needed.

STUDENT EVALUATION: GRADING

While pursuing the course *The Plays of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: Pious Recreations* through Scholé Academy will be restful and prayerful, we also recognize the need to provide grades for students who will be using this course as part of their transcript. It's a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow achievement goals for beginning to explore one's inner spiritual life. Active participation and the ability to challenge oneself through introspective writing and discussion will allow me to assign the following grades to your student's level of achievement: *magna cum laude* (with great praise); *cum laude* (with praise); *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) and *non satis* (not sufficient).

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will be the *magna cum laude* students. Students who do adequate but not praiseworthy work be designated *satis*. *Non satis* means lacking sufficiency or adequacy.

Inasmuch as you might be fully on board with this grading method in theory, there will undoubtedly be the need to complete a transcript with either a numeric or traditional letter grade. Traditional percentage grades will be provided and will be readily accessed on the *The Plays of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: Pious Recreations* Schoology page. Additionally, Mrs. Minehart will provide a transcript of that grade to the requesting parent at the end of the year.

STUDENT EVALUATION: ASSIGNMENTS, TYPES & WEIGHTS

Mrs. Minehart will communicate with students regarding assignment feedback and grading through the free online grading system, Schoology. The teacher will provide students with more detailed information and access to the *The Plays of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: Pious Recreations* course page.

Student's grades will be comprised of:

1. Journals: 25% of the grade
2. Class Participation: 25% of the grade
3. Vocabulary Homework: 20% of the grade.
4. Final written play (including drafts): 30% of the grade

STUDENT EVALUATION: ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are on their honor to abide by [Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy](#) which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook. Additionally, plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense. Proper citation of all sources is essential to the academic endeavor. Remember to cite any source if the information is not common knowledge or is an opinion obtained through any source. A plagiarized assignment will result in a failing grade. Students should consult an appropriate style manual for specific direction on obtaining, quoting and paraphrasing sources.

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:

We will be using the free online "virtual classroom" software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio, text chat and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video and other media can be displayed and analyzed. We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom.

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the [Technology in the Classroom](#) section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to an email. They will submit their work to the *The Plays of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: Pious Recreations* assignment page (access granted after enrollment is secured).

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Monika Minehart has been working in Catholic Religious Education for over a decade and currently serves as the Director of Youth Ministry and Religious Formation at a parish in New Orleans, Louisiana. She earned her B.A. in English with a minor in Early Christian Studies from the University of Michigan and her M.A. in Divinity from the University of Chicago with a focus in Biblical Studies and Koine Greek. Having observed teaching styles in a wide array of school settings (homeschooling, private, public & charter) in her own education and that of her children, she understands the necessity of restful learning wherever you may be attending school. She is passionate about reinvigorating Catholic catechetical programs through classic spiritual literature as well as modern Catholic resources. Monika cherishes the time she gets to spend with her husband and four children, enjoys weightlifting and exercising in her garage gym, and loves listening to uplifting music.