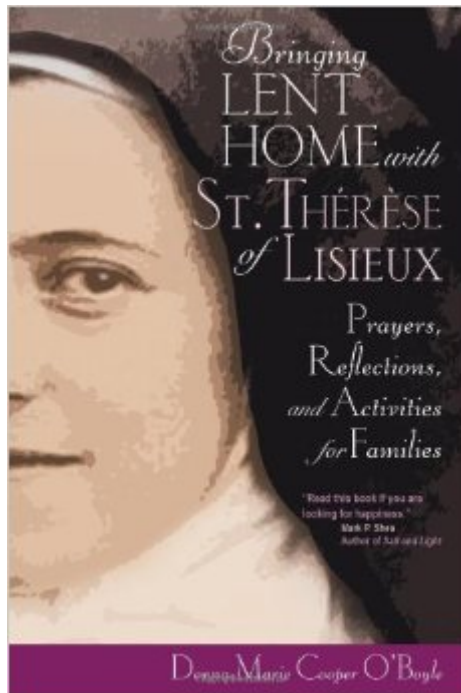


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Bringing Lent Home With St. Therese Of Lisieux: Prayers, Reflections, And Activities For Families



Synopsis

Popular author and EWTN host Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle offers the second in a series of daily Lenten devotional resources for families with children through the pre-teen years, this time focusing on the life and wisdom of beloved St. Therese of Lisieux. This daily guide for families draws from the wisdom of St. Therese, providing everything a parent needs to gather the family together for a time of prayer and conversation, including a daily quotation from St. Therese and a story about her life. Cooper O'Boyle also offers practical suggestions on how to put into practice each day the threefold call of Lent: to fast, pray, and give alms or care for the poor. On Sundays, the focus is on the themes assigned to that Sunday of Lent, and a project for the week ahead is suggested. The booklet can be used with any of the three Catholic lectionary cycles and is designed for use with children through the pre-teen years.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Using St. Therese of Lisieux as a spiritual guide, author Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle effectively assists families in experiencing a deeper spiritual growth and conversion during the holy and penitential season of Lent in *Bringing Lent Home with St. Therese of Lisieux*. The daily devotional begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday, providing prayers, reflections, and activities for the entire family. Each day, the family gathers together in the morning or evening to read a quote from St. Therese, reflect on points to ponder, read a brief excerpt from the life of St. Therese, discuss and choose fasting and almsgiving suggestions, and pray a simple, yet poignant prayer. In this way, the three essential components of the Lenten season are fulfilled:

prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. I was very impressed with both the spiritual depth of this book for families, as well as the practicality of the format. As a Doctor of the Universal Church, whose spiritual doctrine consists of the Little Way, St. Therese is an excellent spiritual guide and model of holiness for both children and adults. Cooper-O'Boyle clearly and concisely articulates and explains the saint's spirituality in a manner that is easily understood, even by children. Each day's devotions are short enough to fit into the average family's schedule, while leaving a lasting impact on the heart, mind, and soul. The suggested activities for fasting and almsgiving are creative, innovative, and doable for families. In summary, *Bringing Lent Home with St. Therese of Lisieux* is a beautiful spiritual companion for your family this Lent and many future Lenten seasons to come. I highly recommend it.

Donna Cooper-O'Boyle shares her love of St. Therese of Lisieux with readers and takes them on a journey with the saint who is known for her "little ways" of sacrificing for Jesus, to be more Christ-like. With daily readings and examples to practice sacrificial love, families can grow closer to Jesus while emulating St. Therese and bringing more meaning into their Lenten experience. I highly recommend all of her books.

I have been a fan of Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle's books, large and small, for several years and have been touched and enriched by each one in a special way. This latest addition to her Lenten guide series, *"Bringing Lent Home with St. Therese of Lisieux,"* is a marvel to me. Designed for busy Catholic families as a daily guide to the journey through Lent, each day's reading contains a particular gem from the writings of St. Therese (one of my favorite saints) and a related story from her life. Prayers, activities, and a simple thought or focus for each day are thoughtfully and insightfully proposed to the reader, and all the pieces come together in a way that is accessible and encouraging. I think the most unique and exciting element of this resource is the short, daily meditation for the parents, which helps me go deeper into an awareness of my own state of soul, as well as providing easy, but important, teachings on Catholic spirituality--especially as they relate to the insights of this great saint and doctor of the Church. These short teachings are presented with such simplicity and tenderness that I would expect anyone, from teens through adult years, to benefit and grow closer to God by reading and contemplating them. It is a rare experience to discover a resource that brims over with wisdom and radiates a palpable experience of the author's own lively faith. Reading through many of the meditations in advance of Lent, I find my heart going to a deeper place of love for God, a greater and more confident desire for holiness, and a more

familiar and affectionate conversation with Therese, herself. Last Lent, my family was greatly blessed by Mrs. O'Boyle's "Bringing Lent Home with Mother Teresa." After reading it, I bought a stack of copies to give away as presents and continue to do so. This season, we will be walking the 40-day pilgrimage of Lent together with St. Therese of Lisieux. I plan to purchase several more copies to share with others--such an easy way to evangelize!

What I enjoyed most about this book & all of Donna Marie's books is her focus on family & prayer. I am a mom of 3 treasures(9,5,4) I am always looking for new ways to bring my family together & opportunities to teach the faith. I believe very much that A family who prays together stays together. Donna Marie provides a great foundation, & an amazing spiritual companion for us. She not only shares St Therese's words with us, but also many aspects of her life. For me, St Therese started off in our family as a visitor but now after getting to know her better she now is a life time member. I would recommend this book to all families who are looking to grow from teachings that are easy enough for a child to grasp yet deep enough for the adults to take the time to contemplate.

Donna's book brings to life the words of St Therese by offering a humble and encouraging way to celebrate Lent with your family. The six sections of each entry provide a framework for Lent day by day - St. Therese's Inspiration, Parent Reflection, Family Prayer, A Story from St. Therese's Life, Fasting, and Almsgiving - working together for a well-rounded, tangible method for observing this liturgical season. Here's an example of the Parent Reflections: The Blessed Mother has much to teach us. She remained with her Son Jesus to the bitter end and witnessed every drop of blood he shed on our behalf. While in his agony on the Cross, Jesus gave his Mother Mary to all of us, to be our Mother. While Mary won't always perform miracles for us as she did with St. Therese the day she was cured of her illness, Mary will work miracles in our hearts and will indeed bring us closer to her Son. We need to ask her to guide us. A compact volume of inspiration and wisdom!

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