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St. Theresa School, Little Rock, AR
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St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

Characters: Narrator, Billy, Susie, St. Theresa, Mother Mary, Daddy, Bishop, Pope and St. Pierre

B: (Munching on a donut) I love our school and parish so much!

S: Looks like you also love fellowship after Mass. Billy, don't speak with your mouth full. Your stomach must be a bottomless pit!

B: Excuse me...Sorry.

S: Yes, I agree with you. We are blessed to have a place like St. Theresa to learn and worship. Did you know that the idea to name our parish and school after the Little Flower was not the first name the founders came up with?

B: Really? What other name did they consider?

S: Henry.

B: Did you say HENNNRY?

S: Yes, a man named Henry had given a big donation and everyone assumed the Church would be named after him.

B: Well, what happened?

S: Father Burke, who was chaplain of the Carmelite Sisters, was talking to the Mother of the Carmelites and she urged Father to see the bishop about naming the parish after St. Theresa, and since we didn't have a St. Theresa Church in Arkansas at the time, the bishop agreed.

B: So we that's how we became St. Theresa instead of St. Hennnnry!

S: That's right! In 1954, the rectory was built and in 1957 the parish hall was built. What today is the "Old Gym" served as the school! The new Church, as it stands today, was built in 1973.

B: Well, now that we know how our Church got its name, what do you know about the life of our patron saint, St. Theresa?

S: What is that...snowflakes..inside of our SCHOOL?

B: Errr, Ah, sorry, I think that's glazed donut crumbs.

S: (Sighs) Well, if you promise to stop spraying me with your crumbs, I'll tell you a little bit about St. Theresa.

B: I promise.

S: OK. St. Theresa of Lisieux was born in France 1873. She was the youngest of nine children. Her name was pronounced with a French accent, "Therese (Tear-Ez)" but we in the United States pronounce her name with our accent, "Theresa".

B: Hmmmm, so, her name had a "French" pronunciation, that kinda reminds me of....French onion dip, French fries, French toast....!!!! (Stomach growls)

S: Is that your stomach growling?

B: Errr....sorry, all this talk about French food makes me hungry!

S: For Pete's sake! You must be on a Seafood diet...every food you SEE, You EAT! Anyway, St. Theresa is known as the Little Flower because she compared people on earth to flowers in the fields. She said God made each of us different, like the types of flowers, and we all must be content to do God's will and be what he wills us to be. She believed if all flowers wanted to be roses and lilies, nature would lose its springtime beauty and if all humans were alike, the world of souls would not be as brilliant. She also compared pleasing God in little ways to scattering little flowers around our world.

B: So, St. Theresa believed that whether you are as simple as a daisy or as grand as a rose, we can each do what we are able for God and he will love us all the same?

S: That's right! You know, St. Theresa's mother died at a young age.

B: Oh that must have been hard for her!

S: Yes, it was. As a result, she became seriously ill, but it made her grow closer to her sisters, especially her older one, Pauline who was a Carmelite nun. In fact, it was because of the close relationship she had with her sister that she realized

that she also wanted to become a nun, too. She decided on the convent of Carmel and to follow Jesus' way, but the bishop said she was too young.

B: What happened?

S: How about I show you?

B: Do I have to hold a girl's hand AGAIN?

S: If I can hold your sticky hand, you surely can hold my clean one. Just do it...

B: OK.....

S: St. Theresa Little Flower take us to your time and hour!

Both: OOOOOOOOOO AAAAHHHHH

ST: (praying in bed) Mother in Heaven, please take pity upon me.

MARY: Smiling, looking toward Therese.

ST: (Energetic) I'm cured! Heavenly Mother, your smile has reached the depths of my soul, and now I know how much you love me.

(Mary departs, enter Daddy)

ST: Daddy can I enter the convent of Carmel?

D: Theresa you are a little flower that God has lovingly prepared for this day and I give you my blessing. (Daddy exits)

(Bishop enters)

ST: Bishop, may I enter the convent of Carmel?

Bis: No, you are too young to join the Convent. But if you are determined, go and ask the Pope.

ST: Yes, Bishop. (Bishop exits, Pope enters)

ST: (to Pope) Holy Father, in honor of your Jubilee, will you permit me to enter the convent of Carmel at the age of 15?

P: Follow your superior's wishes and you will enter if God wills it.

ST: Thank you, Holy Father! (Pope and ST exit, Billy and Susie enter)

B: Wow, she was only 15?!

S: Yes, but the Pope let her in because she was determined to join the order.

B: I don't know if I would have the courage to make such a request of the Pope!

S: That just shows you how much becoming a nun meant to Theresa.
But, once she joined the order, it wasn't always easy for St. Theresa.

B: I suppose it would be hard to be quiet, meek and prayerful all of the time and to deprive yourself from treats as an offering to God.

S: Yes, I can see how that last one would be difficult for YOU, but that wasn't the hardest thing for St. Theresa to do. Sometimes, she didn't always see eye to eye with a particular nun and one time another nun threw hot dirty water in her face! So, St. Theresa decided that instead of avoiding people who were unpleasant, she would call on Christ with the hope that he would act through her to help her serve others in her own little way. Let's see!

(S and B depart)

ST: "It is impossible for me to grow up, so I must bear with myself and my imperfections, But I want to seek out a means of going to heaven by a little way that is very straight, very short and totally new."

ST: Sister St. Pierre, allow me to help you across the corridor. (approaches older nun)

SP: (crotchety old lady) You move too fast!

ST: I'll slow down, is that better?

SP: Well, come on, I don't feel your hand. You have let go of me and I am going to fall. Help! I've fallen and I can't get up! I was right when I said you were too young to help me.

ST: (to herself) I must remember the words of St. Paul, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me".

B: Wow, St. Theresa sure learned to have a lot of patience. Her life was like a story, she should have written all of this down!

S: She did. Every night when she was in the convent she sat in her corner of her cell, which is what they called her room at the convent, and wrote about her life. She called the book the Story of the Soul. After she died, her words were published and since then, millions of copies have spread throughout the world and it has even been translated into more than fifty languages!

B: When did she die?

S: She died on Sept. 30, 1897 of Tuberculosis when she was only 24 years old! She later was canonized or became saint on May 17, 1925, which was just 28 years after her death.

B: Wow! What is her patronage, or whom does she watch over?

S: Missionaries and missions and she is also the secondary patron of France with St. Joan of Arc. Hey, do you want to hear a famous quote by St. Theresa?

B: Ya cool!

ST: "I am a very little soul who can offer only very little things to God. I can prove my love by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance, and every word".

S: You know how we can grow closer to St. Theresa?

B: Yes! Let's say the Prayer of St. Theresa together!

ALL:

"St. Therese, the Little Flower, please pick me a rose from the heavenly garden and send it to me with a message of love. Ask God to grant me the favor I thee implore [state intention here], and tell Him I will love Him each day more and more."