

Feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus

October 1

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St. Therese's *Autobiography* is truly one of the great pieces of Catholic literature. It is sublime and profound; it is an excellent read for whomever is looking to understand the love of God.

In her writing, St. Therese tells a parable to explain how thankful she is to God for the blessings of her life. This story is one that should cause us all to pause and realize how blessed we are. The occasion for the story she tells derives from her awareness that she has not had to undergo the pain and suffering that others have.

Therese tells us: Imagine that you are a child and your father is a doctor. You go out one day for a stroll and as you are walking you fall into a pit and break your leg. Your father, who loves you dearly, comes and takes you home. He bandages your wound, he provides with the care you need. He sees that you recover fully and are your old self again. How thankful you should be! Imagine another scenario. You are still a child and your father is still a doctor. Your father knows you are going to go out for a stroll and he awakens before you depart and goes and checks the road you will walk. He discovers a pit into which you might fall. He fills it in and smooths out the way before you so that no harm will befall you. You leave at the appointed time, go your way and return home safe and sound. I ask you, who should be more thankful? The one who had to suffer or the one whose father kept him from harm?

What a beautiful insight! On this feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus let us realize how blessed we are to have a father who both heals us when we fall but also prepares the way before us and leads us not into temptation.