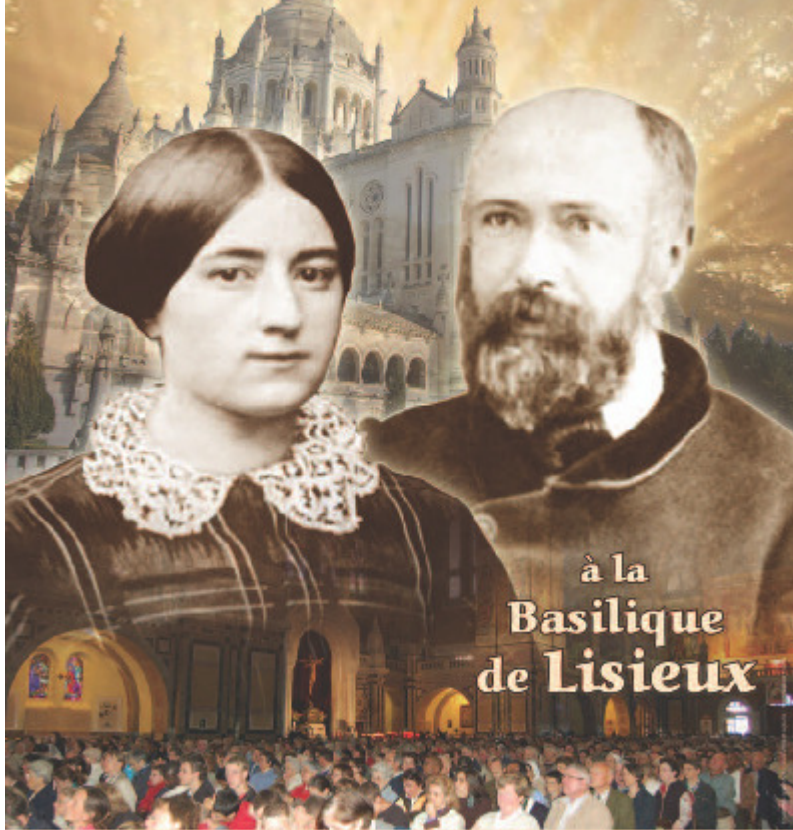


le 19 octobre 2008

# BÉATIFICATION

de Louis et Zélie MARTIN



à la  
Basilique  
de Lisieux



Sanctuaire Sainte Thérèse de Lisieux

Tél. : 02.31.49.55.09 ou [beatification@therese-de-lisieux.com](mailto:beatification@therese-de-lisieux.com) – [www.therese-de-lisieux.com](http://www.therese-de-lisieux.com)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- p. 2** Detailed schedule for the Beatification events
- p. 3** A celebration without precedent for the parents of St. Thérèse.  
The actuality of their message.
- p. 4** Cardinal Jose SARAIVA MARTINS, the legate of the Pope
- p. 5** Description of the ceremony
- p. 6** Show and fireworks at Lisieux
- p. 7** Vigil of the Beatification at Alençon
- p. 8** Practical information
- p. 9** What is a beatification?
- p. 10** The road to the beatification of the Martin parents
- p. 11** The miracle at Milan
- p. 12** Children of the Martin family
- p. 13** About Louis
- p. 15** About Zélie
- p. 17** Prayer to the Blessed Louis and Zélie
- p. 18** Bibliography
- p. 19** Press Sheet
- p. 20** Map



# BEATIFICATION OF LOUIS AND ZÉLIE MARTIN

Parents of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus of the Holy Face

Presided over by

**CARDINAL SARAIVA MARTINS**

Legate of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI

**From Thursday October 16 through Saturday October 18**

**TRIDUUM**

Masses, times of prayer, conferences, visits to the Theresian places, vigils

**Saturday, October 18, 2008**

Vigil of the beatification at **ALENÇON**

**2:00: ACTIVITIES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE CITY**

- **La Halle aux toiles** (The Hall of Paintings): an exhibit of objects that belonged to the Martin family, including their « marriage medallion, » and presentations on the crafts of watchmaking and lacemaking (in collaboration with the museum and the archives)
- **Saint-Léonard's Church**: A presentation about Louis and Zélie Martin: their story and their spirituality
- **Notre Dame Church**: showing of a DVD about the Martin couple and about the birth house
- **Birth house**: a special opening during the renovations; spiritual programs
- **"Le Pavillon"**: discovered

**6:00: PONTIFICAL MASS** for the occasion of the beatification in Notre Dame Church

**Evening: VIGIL OF PRAYER** that may continue during the night

Information at Alençon: 00.33.(0)2 33 26 20 89

**Sunday, October 19**

**8:30** : **WELCOME** and distribution of booklets with programs

**10:00** : **PONTIFICAL MASS** at the Basilica, broadcast in the Crypt and on the square

**1:30** : **ANIMATED VISITS** to the Theresian places with welcome in costumes of the era

**3:00** : **PLAY** in the Basilica – evocation of the Martin family based on the letters of Zélie,  
Music and dance – admission free.

**4:30** : **SOLEMN VESPERS** at the Basilica.

**8:30** : **FIREWORKS** on the Square of the Basilica

**Monday, October 20**

**10:00: PONTIFICAL MASS** of the Blessed Louis and Zélie Martin at the Basilica

**2:00** : **VISITS** to the Theresian places

**4:00** : **VESPERS** at the Basilica

Information	
<b>PILGRIMAGE OFFICE OF THE SHRINE OF SAINT THÉRÈSE</b> Tél. 00.33.(0)2.31.48.55.09 beatification@therese-de-lisieux.com www.therese-de-lisieux.com	<b>AGENCE BIPEL</b> Tél.: 00.33.(0)2.99.30.58.28 bipel@bipel.com – <a href="http://www.bipel.com">www.bipel.com</a>  – <b>Special train from Paris to Lisieux</b> Go and return Sunday, October 19 : 40 € – <b>Accommodation for two nights, pension supplement</b> – <b>Inscription à Agence Bipel</b>
<b>LISIEUX TOURISM OFFICE</b> Tél. 00.33.(0)2.31.48.18.10	

# **A Celebration Without Precedent For the Parents of Saint Thérèse**

The streets of Lisieux seem calm, yet a certain agitation appears as one approaches the Basilica. Indeed, everybody here is getting ready to celebrate the Beatification of Louis and Zélie Martin. Pierre and Marie, a couple of pensioners, go up toward the building: “We pray to St. Thérèse, of course, but especially to her parents, because, you know, they are going to be beatified, and for us, this is a powerful sign: it is not only monks, nuns, and martyrs who can be examples, but also couples!” they confide in us.

All is said by this couple of quinquagenarians: for the first time in the history of the **Church: a couple who have a child who is a saint, a doctor of the Church, are beatified**. And they are not beatified because their daughter is a saint! And they are not beatified because their daughter is a saint! In a letter written to the seminarian Bellière two months before her death, Thérèse herself will say about her parents: “God gave me a father and a mother more worthy of Heaven than of earth; they asked the Lord to give them many children and to let them all be consecrated to Him.” \* (July 26th, 1897, LT 261).

We know many aspects of the daily life of this family of the nineteenth century thanks to the many stories reported in the voluminous family correspondence and in the writings of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus.

They were at the head of a business, with all the worries and vagaries of orders and of employees. Each one had a permanent concern for justice and respect, which they exercised notably toward their employees, without forgetting the help they gave to others every day, especially to the most dispossessed.

The unprecedented event this beatification represents reflects on the universal Church and on all families, those of Calvados, of France, and of the whole world . . . the family of each of us. A crowd is expected, and it is gathering already, from the whole world.

## **The Actuality of Their Message**

They knew disease: cancer for Zélie, a brain disease for Louis, with confinement in a psychiatric institution. Repeated griefs and the loneliness of being a widower with dependent children. The worries of educating a difficult child do not pass them by. Thus, they tell us that holiness is practicable, today as yesterday, in the heart of family life.

# CARDINAL JOSÉ SARAIVA MARTINS



## PAPAL LEGATE OFFICIATING AT THE BEATIFICATION ON OCTOBER 19, 2008

### What is a Papal Legate?

A Papal Legate (from the Latin *lex*: the law) is a delegate sent by the Pope to represent him at a major religious event. Usually a cardinal is appointed.

### Who is Cardinal Jose SARAIVA MARTINS ?

Born January 6, 1932 in Portugal at Gagos de Jarmelo, Diocese of Guarda, province of Beira Alta.

Ordained on March 16 1957, He ministers at the

Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

He studied in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University (Jesuits) and at the Angelicum (Dominicans) and earned a doctorate in theology.

He taught metaphysics and theology in Italy and then became Rector of the Pontifical Urbaniana University (Rome), a position held from 1977 to 1988.

On May 26, 1988, he was appointed Secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education, and became Titular Archbishop of Thuburnica (Tunisia).

On May 30, 1998, John Paul II named him Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

On February 21, 2001, he was appointed as Cardinal and served the Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (Rome).

In 2005 he participated in the conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI.

Since July 3, 2008, he has held the post of Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

### The Congregation for the Causes of Saints

This was created by Pope Sixtus V on January 22, 1588, originally called the Congregation of Rites. It is responsible for following established procedures and dealing with all matters that lead to the canonization of the Servants of God. A Servant of God is a person whose reputation for holiness prompted the bishop of the diocese where the person died to establish an ecclesiastical court to verify the criteria for sainthood in the life of this person. The role of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints is therefore to investigate potential cases for canonization, to consider proposals and whether the case may be referred to the Pope. The Congregation also decides whether or not the status of Doctor of the Church will be attributed to the saints. In this way, in 1997 St. Thérèse of Lisieux was proclaimed "Doctor of the Church." A team is formed to study the case proposed for sainthood (miracles, martyrdom, etc.). The Congregation has its own physicians to analyze healings and miracles.



## Description of the Ceremony

### Celebration of the Beatification of Louis and Zélie Martin

Jose Cardinal Saraiva Martins, prefect emeritus of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, legate of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, will preside over the celebration. The bishops and the Cardinal will enter the Basilica from the south side, accompanied by the entrance song.

The Cardinal will open the celebration and introduce the penitential rite.

After the singing of the Kyrie eleison, Msgr. Pierre Pican, bishop of Bayeux and Lisieux; Mgr. Jean-Claude Boulanger, bishop of Seéz; and Fr. Antonio Sangalli, O.C.D., vice-postulator for the Cause, will ask the Cardinal legate to proceed with the beatification of the Venerable Zélie and Louis Martin.

After the reading of the Apostolic Letter of Beatification, the assembly will sing a song of thanksgiving while the portrait of Louis and Zélie is unveiled.

The reliquary containing the relics of the newly beatified will be carried in procession from the crypt of the basilica by parents and their children.

The procession will pass by the esplanade before entering the basilica, where the reliquary will be placed at the foot of the altar. Songs in honor of Blessed Zélie and Louis will accompany the procession.

When the reliquary arrives at the foot of the altar, the bishops of Bayeux-Lisieux and Seéz will thank the Holy Father for this beatification.

The assembly will begin to sing the Gloria in excelsis Deo, and the Mass will continue as usual.

At the end of the Mass, the priests and bishops and the Cardinal Legate will process to the open space in front of the basilica, where doves will be released to celebrate the occasion.

# SHOW AND FIREWORKS AT LISIEUX

## RECALLING THE MARTIN FAMILY

### Presentation: "A Love Story"

Location: Inside the Basilica and broadcast on the square

Duration: one hour

Presentation on the life of the Martin family based on extracts from Zélie's letters. 150 performers in period costumes including choreographed dances and drama. Lively frescoes and brilliant reconstructions of the atmosphere and daily life of the Martin family.

### Fireworks

Enjoy five successive segments:

Hope ("Springtime" by Antonio Vivaldi)

Paying attention to God and others (Text by Zélie Martin)

The beauty of Creation (vocals)

The joy of children ("Waltz of the Flowers" by Tchaikovsky)

"Living Love" (poetry by Thérèse)

Jean-Marie DEVULDER, a professional pyrotechnician, provided the fireworks. He himself is marked by the Norman saint; passing through Lisieux during his family vacation, he was touched spiritually by St. Thérèse. He began a path leading to that of permanent deacon in the diocese of Lille. Since then, his ministry is dedicated to the patronage of St. Thérèse.

### Exhibition " Family History: Louis and Zélie Martin"

Location & time: Saint Jacques Church, rue au Char in Lisieux, every day until November from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Special opening: Monday, October 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

Information: Telephone 02 31 48 55 09 -

Taken from the abundance of correspondence by Zélie (218 letters), Louis, their daughters, their family and their close friends - more than 1300 letters in total.

The memories contained therein are a permanent treasure to reconstruct their family life, and even family life as it was in the nineteenth century. We enter it like into a house where you have been invited ... and we visit all the rooms, from the dining room to the study, and from the kitchen to the cellar. With happiness we find familiar objects: Louis's watchmaking tools and fishing equipment, Zélie's needles and lace, school books, an iron and ironing board, dishes and vintage clothes, toys and clothing.

# Saturday, October 18 at Alençon

## Vigil of the Beatification

On the occasion of the beatification of Louis and Zélie Martin, a full day of programs and prayer is scheduled for October 18, 2008, in Alençon, the city where the Martin couple lived. To facilitate participation, buses will depart from Lisieux on that date.

From 2:00 p.m.:

Activities at various locations in the city will allow people to go freely from one place to another. Exposition at the "**Halles aux Toiles**" about the "crafts" of Louis and Zélie Martin (in collaboration with the museum and the archives)—Watchmaking and Lacemaking).

- Another Exposition **of items that belonged to the Martins**, including the “marriage medallion,” a souvenir the priest blessed at the moment they exchanged their vows.
- Reception at **Notre Dame Church**<sup>1</sup> with a **DVD** about the Martin couple. Presentation of the **statue of Louis and Zélie** by the artist (Fabienne Bayi).
- Special opening, while renovations are being completed, of the **chapel of the birth home** for this afternoon, with a spiritual program.<sup>2</sup>
- Visit to the "**Pavillon**" of Louis Martin.<sup>3</sup>
- Reception at the **Poor Clares Monastery**.<sup>4</sup>
- 4:15: **Lecture about the Martin Family** by Monseigneur Jean-Claude Boulanger, bishop of Séez, at the **Church of St. Pierre de Montsort**.
- 6:00: **Opening Ceremony** for the Beatification Celebrations. **Cardinal Saraiva Martins** presides at **Mass at Notre Dame Church**. An aperitif served afterward.
- 9:00: "**For the Love of God**," a presentation based on the letters of **Zélie Martin**, by young people and families of the diocese, at **Notre Dame Church**. It will end with prayers led by young people.

**October 19th: Beatification at Lisieux: Mass at 10:00 a.m.**

(Buses will be organized to leave from the Séez Diocese).

**October 20th: Masses of the Blessed, Bishop Jean-Claude Boulanger presiding.**

- 6:30 Cathedral of Séez.

8:30 Notre Dame of Alençon

Diocese of Séez

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<sup>1</sup> Louis and Zélie were married here, and Thérèse was baptized here on January 4, 1873.

<sup>2</sup> This was Zélie's family home in Rue Saint-Blaise; she and Louis moved back there in 1871.

<sup>3</sup> In this walled garden with a hexagonal tower Louis used to meditate and relax; he took the girls there for outings.

<sup>4</sup> Zélie belonged to the Third Order of St. Francis here; she confided in the nuns and asked their prayers. On October 7, 1886, Thérèse's sister Léonie entered this monastery unexpectedly, but on December 1, 1886, she returned home].



# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## To plan your visit

If you're in an organized group or if you want to plan one or more days for visiting, meetings, or celebrations, you can contact us for assistance at the Beautification Office:  
Telephone: 02 31 48 55 09

Email: [beatification@therese-de-lisieux.com](mailto:beatification@therese-de-lisieux.com)

## Buses

Buses will discharge passengers on l'avenue St. Thérèse and then will park at the parking lot at the Republic. Signs are posted (see map).

## Automobiles

On the basilica site four lots will be reserved for automobiles (see map). Parking in the city is also available (follow special signs)

## By Train Sunday October 19 – regular schedule:

Depart	Arrive Lisieux	From Paris
8:10 a.m.	9:46 a.m.	
8:49 a.m.	10:28 a.m.	
9:04 a.m.	10:06 a.m.	From Cherbourg
7:21 a.m. 7:48 a.m. 9:32 a.m.	7:43 a.m. 8:08 a.m. 9:53 a.m.	From Deauville/Trouville
8:11 a.m., arrive Caen 9:20 a.m.		From Cherbourg
7:52 a.m. 9:37 a.m.	8:17 a.m. 10:03 a.m.	From Caen

Shuttles are provided from the train station for people with disabilities.

On this occasion, chartered trains arriving & departing on October 19 are available from:

<b>Paris:</b> Agency Bipel - Telephone: 00.33. (0) 2.99.30.58.28 Email: <a href="mailto:bipel@bipel.com">bipel@bipel.com</a> <a href="http://www.bipel.com">www.bipel.com</a>	<b>Angers:</b> Elisabeth de Baudoin - Telephone: 02 41 87 23 76 or 06 12 67 72 54	<b>Chartered Coaches:</b> <b>Le Havre/Lisieux:</b> Dominique Charpentier - Tel.: 02 35 47 60 87 Email: <a href="mailto:havre-pelerinage@neuf.fr">havre-pelerinage@neuf.fr</a>
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## For accommodations : contact in and around Lisieux

<b>Tourism Office Lisieux:</b> Telephone: 00.33. (0) 2.31.48.18.10 Email: <a href="mailto:groupe@cclisieuxpaysdauge.fr">groupe@cclisieuxpaysdauge.fr</a> Website: <a href="http://www.lisieux-tourisme.com">www.lisieux-tourisme.com</a>	<b>Agency Bipel - 35000 Rennes</b> Telephone: 00.33. (0) 2.99.30.58.28 Email: <a href="mailto:bipel@bipel.com">bipel@bipel.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.bipel.com">www.bipel.com</a>
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## Accommodations in Alençon for travel to Lisieux on Sunday morning:

### Tourism Office Alençon

Telephone: 00.33. (0) 2.33.80.66.33

Email: [contact@paysdalencontourisme.com](mailto:contact@paysdalencontourisme.com)

# What is a **Beatification** ?

## Why a beatification?

Beatification is an act by which the Pope appoints a person to the status of "blessed" (in Latin: beati). The Church wants to offer as an example to all Christian people the testimony of certain members, and the Church designates them as Servants of God.

## A rigorous procedure

Beatification is decided only by a rigorous procedure. It takes place in two stages:

1. Recognition of the Servant of God's reputation for holiness: displaying a lifetime of Christian virtue one's whole life, at the moment of one's death, with a reputation for holiness that endures after one's death.

The diocesan bishop conducts a thorough investigation. He assigns a postulator of the cause to carefully collect testimony of witnesses and to examine writings. A dossier is sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome, which considers each element of the record with the help of the commissioned reporters and consultants (historians, theologians). At the end of this first stage, the Servant of God is declared "venerable."

During this procedure, the promoter of the faith serves as an attorney general whose mission is to ensure that nothing in the life of the Servant of God is left in the shadows, including anything that might be unfavorable to this cause. (The term "devil's advocate" was applied to him, and now this term is commonly used).

2. To be declared beatified, the Church requires fulfillment of a miracle that takes place as a result of prayer addressed to the Servant of God.

Indeed, many of the faithful will seek graces and favors from God through the intercession of the Servant of God. Another canonical survey is conducted, examining medical records, listening to testimony and expert reports, and consulting doctors and theologians. Everything is subject to a plenary meeting of Cardinals and Bishops, which decides whether to refer the findings to the Pope, who makes the ultimate decision. If the Pope's decision is positive, then a decree of beatification is drafted, which will be solemnly proclaimed at the site where the request originated.

Beatification allows for official prayer within the diocese, and recognizes the feast of the Beatified on the official calendar. This public cult also allows the display of images and relics in churches. Furthermore, the Beatified may be taken as a patron (of persons, of a parish, etc.).

# The Road to the Beatification of the Martin Parents

After the canonization of Thérèse, in 1925, at Lisieux, Cardinal Vico, who had come to Lisieux, stated: "Well then! Rome now asks us to consider Papa!" Having just finished the cause of Thérèse, the Carmel was somewhat reluctant. But, in fact, Louis Martin's reputation of holiness was apparent to readers of *Story of a Soul*, written by Thérèse. That of Zélie developed much later, when *Story of a Family* was published in 1946 (by Father Piat, a Franciscan), and it became better known with the publication of *Correspondance familiale*, which offered the reader 218 letters of Zélie and 16 of Louis.

## An Abundance of Graces

Since February 1958, the journal *Annals of St. Thérèse of Lisieux* (now called *Thérèse of Lisieux*) has been publishing those graces and favors attributed to one or the other.

## A Halo for Two . . .

On March 22, 1957, the process to consider Louis Martin began in Bayeux. It lasted 12 years and was completed on February 12, 1969. Meanwhile, the Diocese of Sées considered Zélie Martin from October 10, 1957 to January 21, 1959.

*For the first time in the history of the Church*, Pope Paul VI wanted the two processes combined into one, and in 1971 this one cause was entrusted to the Historical Office of the Congregation for Saints.

After the hearing, the commission reached a positive decision about the case on February 17, 1988. On December 20, 1993, the theological consultants gave a favorable opinion, so good that Louis and Zélie Martin were declared "venerable" by John Paul II on March 26, 1994, the *Year of the Family*.

## The miracle required for them to be recognized as "Blessed"...

The bodies of Louis and Zélie, resting since October 13, 1958 at the cemetery of Lisieux near the apse of the Basilica, were exhumed on May 26, 2008 to be placed in the crypt of the Basilica where they can be venerated.

In 1991, two volumes were published about the virtues of Louis Martin and Marie-Azélie Guérin.

- Volume 1, 690 pages, on the heroic virtues of the Servants of God.
- Volume 2, 1251 pages, bringing together all the documentation available.

# The miracle at Milan

On June 10, 2003, Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, archbishop of Milan, recognized a miracle attributed to Louis and Zélie Martin. This allows them to be proclaimed “blessed” together. This is the second time in the history of the Church that a couple was beatified together; the first were the Italians Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi, who were beatified on October 21, 2001.

The miracle took place for the newborn Pietro Schiliro, who is now six years old. He was born on May 25, 2002 with serious respiratory problems, and for 40 days he hovered between life and death in St. Gerard Hospital in Monza. From birth his status was much compromised. On June 3, his parents decided to baptize their child, who was in imminent danger of death. Father Antonio Sangalli, a member of the Carmelite Order, a friend and spiritual father to the couple, rushed to the hospital with a picture of St. Thérèse’s parents.



"We knew St. Thérèse, we had read her writings, but we knew little about her parents," recalls Adele, Pietro’s mother. "Father Antonio explained to us that Thérèse’s parents had lost four children at an early age: the prayers helped us to understand the meaning of what was happening to us with our little Pietro. We welcomed this invitation with confidence: further, knowing their daughter Thérèse, our asking for the intercession of her parents seemed to us to be something natural to do."

So the Schiliros began to make a novena to the Martin parents and asked their friends, their acquaintances, families encountered when they picked their children up from school, people of the parish, and people belonging to ecclesial movements to pray with them, giving them the picture of Louis and Zélie Martin with the novena prayer. This network went as far as Cambodia, where a family friend was a missionary. A biopsy taken from Pietro on June 5, however, confirmed a fatal prognosis, reducing hopes of survival even with respiratory assistance.

"So many people prayed with us and for us" said Pietro’s mother, "but at first I was resigned, and I already thought about the funeral, and everything that follows." However, friends encouraged them to seek the miraculous cure of Pietro. And so, on June 13, in the presence of many friends, having recited the Rosary, the Schiliros began a second novena, trusting in the intercession of the Martin parents. Doctors and nurses also participated in this prayer. And it was precisely a nurse who, on June 29, announced an unexpected improvement in the newborn. Pietro no longer needed 100% oxygen. Within a few days he was able to breathe unassisted, and on July 27 he was returned to his parents in perfect health.

"Given the complexity of the case and the clinical evolution," states a medical report, "we find the healing a surprise." This inexplicable healing was recognized as a miracle by Benedict XVI in Rome on July 3, 2008. After this recognition, this is the testimony of Adele and Valter, Pietro’s parents:

*"We thank the Lord continually for his mercy towards us. He welcomed the intercession of Louis and Zélie and healed our little Pietro. He manifested his love by an extraordinary action in order to help us recognize His all-loving Presence in our ordinary lives. Louis and Zélie accepted the circumstances of their lives with confidence in the goodness of the Father, and this helps us and supports us in our daily lives. "*

# Children of the Martin Family

**ZÉLIE GUÉRIN (1831-1877)**  
**LOUIS MARTIN (1823-1894)**

On July 12, 1858, at 10:00 p.m., Louis and Zélie's civil marriage ceremony took place, and, two hours later, at midnight on July 13, the sacrament of marriage was performed in the Church of Our Lady of Alençon. During 19 years of marriage, they had nine children, four of whom died in infancy.

- **Marie-Louise (22/2/1860 - 19/1/1940)**  
godmother of Thérèse, Carmelite nun in Lisieux: Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart
- **Marie-Pauline (7/9/1861 - 28/7/1951)**  
Carmelite nun in Lisieux: Mother Agnes of Jesus
- **Marie-Léonie (3/6/1863 - 16/6/1941)**  
Visitation nun at Caen: Sister Françoise-Thérèse
- **Marie-Hélène (3/10/1864 - 22/2/1870)**
- **Marie-Joseph-Louis (20/9/1866 - 14/2/1867)**
- **Marie-Joseph-Jean-Baptiste (19/12/1867 - 24/8/1868)**
- **Marie-Céline (28/4/1869 - 25/2/1959)**  
Carmelite nun in Lisieux: Sister Geneviève of the Holy Face
- **Marie-Mélanie-Thérèse (16/8/1870 - 8/10/1870)**
- **Marie-Françoise-Thérèse (2/1/1873 - 30/9/1897)**  
Carmelite nun in Lisieux: Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus of the Holy Face





# LOUIS MARTIN

## (1823-1894)

### In search of an ideal

Louis Martin was born in Bordeaux in 1823. The son of a soldier, in his early years he moved several times. Then his family settled in Alençon, where Louis received his schooling. He learned watchmaking in Rennes, Strasbourg, and Paris. During his years of study, he conceived a desire to consecrate his life to God, and he applied to the monastery of the Grand St Bernard. His difficulty in mastering Latin forced him to abandon this dream. So, in 1850, he opened a watch and clock shop on rue du Pont Neuf in Alençon.

Until his marriage in 1858, he divided his time between his business, recreation (especially fishing), meditating, and socializing. In one social circle he met Vital Romet, who organized a dozen young adult Christians under the leadership of Abbé Hurel, and participated regularly at the

Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.

### His Marriage

His mother, who resolved that he would not remain single, told him about Zélie Guerin, with whom she had learned the craft of lace-making. Their first meeting on Saint-Leonard Bridge was like destiny: they married less than a year later, on July 12, 1858 at 10:00 p.m. at City Hall in Alençon, and then at midnight at Notre Dame Church. Their marriage lasted 19 years. It was marked by a period of living as brother and sister and then the welcome addition of nine children, of whom five survived.



Mrs. Martin's letters reveal the deep affection uniting this couple: "I am always very happy with him. He refreshes my life. My husband is a godly man; I've achieved the dream of every woman."

She also describes her daily life, with Louis's participation in the education of their children and his professional decision to give up his own business in order to support his wife in directing the lace factory she founded. A deep faith nourished this family and made them caring towards those around them, in the course of their social and religious lives in that epoch (the end of the Second Empire and the birth of the Third Republic).



Zélie Martin spoke finally of her long struggle with the cancer that took her at the age of 46 on August 28, 1877.

### **An Attentive Father**

Upon becoming a widower, Louis decided to live in Lisieux near the Guérins, his in-laws. From several letters during this time, we glimpse a father attentive to each of his daughters and willing to consent to their desires to choose a consecrated life.

After Thérèse entered Caramel, Louis began to have setbacks in his health in 1888, requiring him to go to the Bon Sauveur [hospital] in Caen. During periods of remission, he helped other patients around him. Later, paralyzed, he returned to the care of his family. He died in their presence on July 29, 1894 at the age of 71.

### **Louis Martin's Illness**

The disease and the death of Louis Martin are the subject of a 73-page study in Volume 2 commissioned by the Historical Office of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. It includes testimonies of psychiatrists, a physician, and two doctors from the psychiatric hospital at Bon Sauveur in Caen, and last by a neuro-psychiatrist.

Louis Martin's terminal illness was a progressive vascular brain disease--an atherosclerosis throughout his brain which evolved over a decade. Thérèse did not speak of her father's illness, but rather of his "passion" (Ms A, 73 °r). She knew that her "Dear King" had not only given all his daughters to God, but had offered himself on the altar he gave to the Cathedral of Lisieux, the parish attended by the Martin family.

# ZÉLIE MARTIN

## (1831-1877)

**Zélie, daughter of the nineteenth century, the heir of her time.**



Second child of Isidore Guérin and Louise-Jeanne Macé, Azélie-Marie Guérin (always known by the nickname Zélie) was born on December 23, 1831 at Gandelain, in the district of Saint Denis sur Sarthon in Orne, where her father, a former soldier of the empire, was a policeman.

She was baptized the day after her birth in the church of Saint Denis sur Sarthon. Her sister, Marie-Louise, was two years older. She became Sister Marie-Dosithée of the Visitation of

Mans. A brother, Isidore, was born almost ten years later, and he became the spoiled child of the family. In a letter to her brother, she herself says her childhood and youth were as *“sad as a shroud, because my mother spoiled you, yet for me, you know she was too strict; although she was so good, she did not know how to treat me, so I suffered a lot in my heart.”*

### **Zélie, active woman, an entrepreneur, committed to justice ...**

After studying at the Convent of Perpetual Adoration on rue de Lancrel in Alençon, she felt a call to the religious life, but, when refused by the [Mother] Superior, she chose vocational training and successfully started manufacturing the renowned Alençon lace. Towards the end of 1853, she registered herself as a “manufacturer of Alençon Lace” at 36 rue Saint-Blaise and contracted with other women who worked from their homes. The quality of her products made her workshop well known. The relationships she maintained with her staff, whom she was said to love as if they were members of her own family, were just like those with her neighbors and acquaintances: we see her always ready to fight injustice and to support those who are in need. The Gospel motivated all her actions.





## Zélie, loving wife

In April 1858, Zélie Guerin crossed the bridge of Saint Leonard and spotted a young man whose bearing impressed her. He was Louis Martin, the watchmaker. Three months later, on July 12, 1858 at 10:00 p.m. their civil marriage was held, and two hours later, at midnight on July 13, they exchanged vows in an intimate ceremony in the church of Notre-Dame d'Alençon. Abbé Hurel, Dean of Saint Leonard, officiated.

The love Zélie brought to her husband shines in these words: "Your wife who loves you more than life itself," and "I embrace you as I love you "...

## Zélie, mother blessed and tested

From 1860 to 1873, nine children were born in the Martin home, four of whom died in infancy. Zélie experienced joy and suffering during these seasons of births and deaths.

We read in her letters: "I love children dearly, I was born to have them." Later, after the birth of Thérèse, her last daughter: "I have so much suffering in my life." Educating her girls became the passion of her heart. Faith was at the heart and soul of this education. For her children she desired the very best--to become saints!

## Zélie, sick yet ever confident

**During 1865, a gland in her right breast developed into cancer, which caused Zélie great suffering.** "If God wants to heal me, I will be very happy, because in my soul I want to live. It will crush me to leave my husband and my children. But on the other hand, I tell myself: if I am not healed, then perhaps it is in order for them to be more useful should I go."

At thirty minutes after midnight on August 28, 1877, Zélie died, with her husband and her brother at her side.



# PRAYER

## TO THE BLESSED LOUIS AND ZÉLIE MARTIN

God of eternal love,  
you gave to us in the blessed spouses Louis and Zélie Martin  
an example of holiness lived out in marriage.  
In the midst of the duties and difficulties of life,  
they sustained faith and hope.  
They raised their children to become saints.  
May their prayers and their example  
support all families in their Christian life  
and help us all to grow in holiness.  
If it is your will,  
deign to grant us the grace we ask you right now  
through their intercession,  
and include them in the number of the saints of your Church.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

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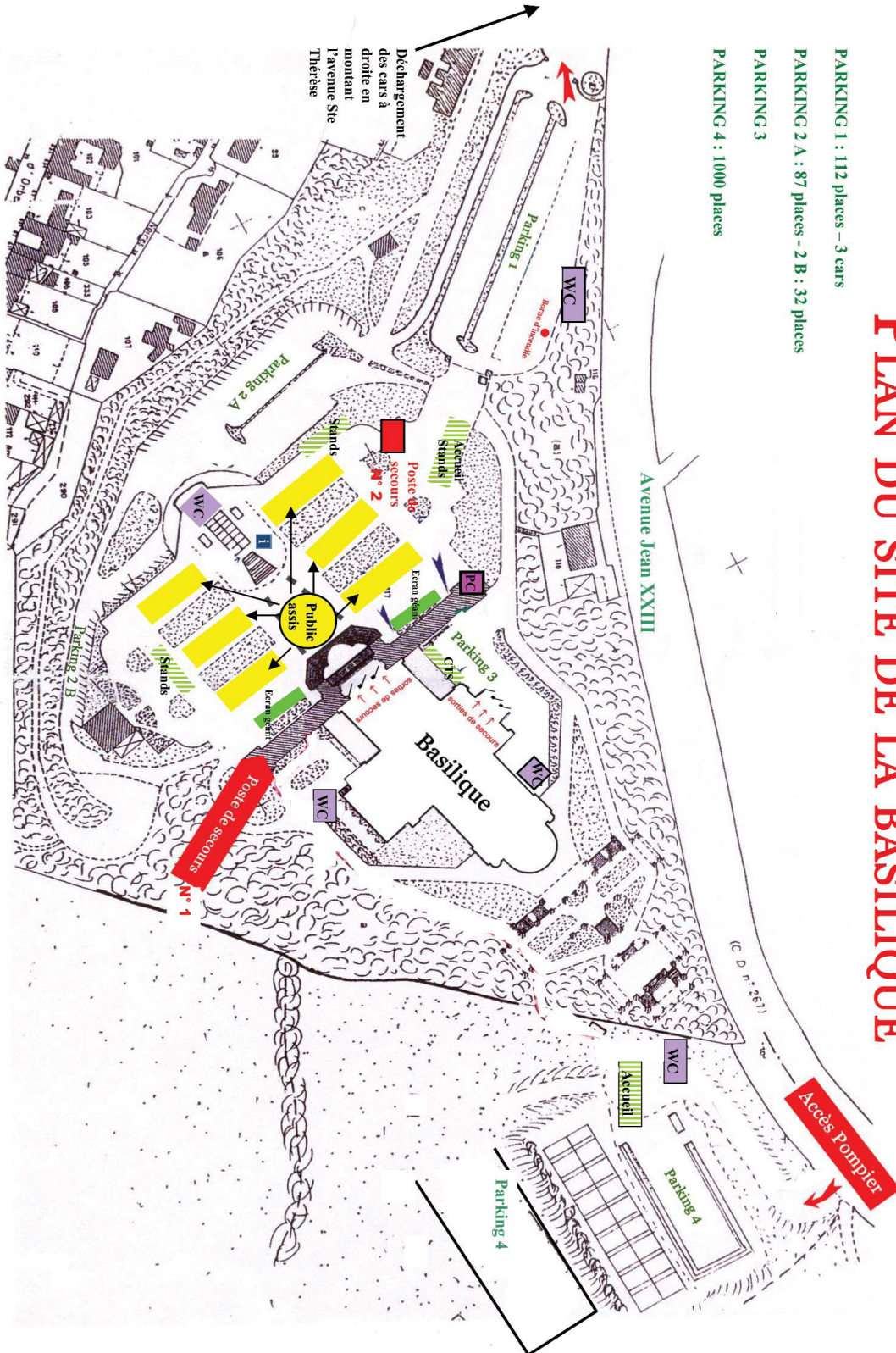
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PARKING 1 : 112 places – 3 cars

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PARKING 3

PARKING 4 : 1000 places



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