



St. Thérèse, the Little Flower: Donated in memory of Angela Ganchar and their son John by Leonard N. Ganchar, this window depicts one of the most beloved saints, who lived a short life but whose influence endures. Born Marie Françoise Martin in 1873 in Alençon, France, Thérèse, her father, and her eight siblings moved to Lisieux after her mother died. Two of her sisters entered the Carmelite convent, and Thérèse decided to follow them. Called the greatest saint of modern times, she was named a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II because of her spirituality of the “little way.” What is that little way? The saint herself tells us: "Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love." Her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, still in print, has inspired many. Afflicted with tuberculosis and faced with the end of her young life, she wrote in a letter, "I am not dying, I am entering life"; her final words were, "My God..., I love you!" She was only twenty-four when she died on September 30, 1897.

In our window St. Thérèse carries a cross and roses. The roses are an important detail. Thérèse said that her mission was “to make God loved,” a mission that would begin after her death: “I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses.” Numerous people throughout the world have had experiences that connect St. Thérèse and roses received or seen or smelled. The feast of Saint Thérèse falls on October 1. Along with St. Francis Xavier she is the patron of the missions, and in 1944 she was named, with Joan of Arc, the patron saint of France.