

SERVING GOD IN FREEDOM



Did you know that Venerable Thérèse de Lamourous resisted every effort the police made to oblige her to take into the Misericorde someone arrested for prostitution? La Misericorde (Mercy House) was not meant to be a mini-jail, a house of punishment. When parents wanted to protect or correct their daughters for illicit relationships by leaving them at Mercy House, Thérèse would gently refuse or tell them to go back home, think about it, and come back freely if they so chose? She appreciated these women, young and old, who were trying to take back their lives as persons. Freedom was the key to the success of Mercy House. Today her influence is still felt through other Mercy Houses she inspired.

In our day one of the most serious problems facing our world is human trafficking. Children, boys and girls, are being kidnapped to be used as soldiers, or sex slaves, or slave brides, or slave laborers. Thérèse points to the only way those who have been so abused and shamed can begin to regain their dignity and personal value. Only through freedom.

It is a hard choice they have to make, since there is no assurance they can survive on the “other” side. They need to have a place where they will feel safe. Thérèse established a model Mercy House. All the young women who came freely were “family,” her dear daughters. Mercy House was never to be a prison or detention center. Those who came, came freely wanting to regain their lives. Therese set up the house rules; the residents were very much involved in the running of the house. She kept individual tabs on every resident. Yet one thing was absolute. They came freely. They could leave freely.

All through history there have been examples of persons who wanted to assure that women would receive a proper education, earn equal pay, be able to mature normally, etc. Thérèse must be numbered among these.

In our day, when situations regarding the exploitation of women and children are so in the forefront of world news, we ask Venerable Thérèse to pray for us and inspire us to respect all people, especially those most vulnerable.

On Sept. 16th we celebrate the anniversary of her death. She had such an influence for good in Bordeaux, that at her death the entire city of Bordeaux mourned for her.

August 16, 1804	The Sodality of Bordeaux moved into the Chapel of the Madeleine
August 24, 1839	Blessed Fr. Chaminade's Letter to the Retreat Masters
Setember 2, 1800	Blessed Fr. Chaminade returns to France from exile
September 5, 1818	Pioneer Marianists profess perpetual vows.
“ “ 1926	Blessed Florencio Arnaiz professes vows
“ “ 1928	Blessed Sabino Ayastuy & Joaquin Ochoa profess vows
September 16, 1836	Venerable Therese de Lamourous dies
“ 1936	Blessed Florencio, Sabino, and Joaquin are murdered for the faith
September 18th	Feast of Blessed Carlos, Jesus, and Fidel

In the Marianist Family This Is Happening

Reading quotes from Blessed Chaminade at the end of each meal.

Taking a different “saint” each day and pray for all the intentions recommended in the Marianist Family.

When people ask us to pray, we choose one of the “saints” and pray through his intercession for that particular intention. They are all part of our Marianist Family.

If you have ways that you or your community prays, remembers, and honors our “saints”,
please let us know.
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Thank you.