

God's Secret for You!

Dear Friend,

When Mathilda was received into the Family of the Sons and Daughters of Mary, the new name her parents chose for her was "Thérèse" (or Theresa). Mathilda, having mentioned this fact to Sister Lucette, this latter recently had the good idea of lending her the book, *The Story of a Soul* by Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, her patron saint. Sister Lucette told Mathilda a little bit about it and she became interested in it. We must admit, though, that Mathilda had to make a bit of an effort of will to start reading this book because there are lots of pages in it, but it was as though the saint's picture on the cover was beckoning her. Moreover, as soon as she started reading it, her interest for this very likeable "little saint" just kept growing.

Mathilda thought she knew the life of Saint Thérèse, but as she read the autobiography, she realized that it was quite different! Besides, what she was reading was "working" on her. She was discovering many things. It seemed to her that those pages were making her love Jesus even more, giving her a fresh incentive to love those around her better and offer up her sufferings. In her heart, she also felt admiration for the little Thérèse whom she finds generous and determined in her love of God and neighbor. Moreover, Thérèse was teaching her to become better.

Even if Mathilda carries on with her daily activities, her heart and mind seem to be more recollected and she is even surprised to find herself thinking that perhaps she too could become a Sister, give her life to God to love Him always more. This thought has also crossed her mind occasionally in the past. She knows Sister Lucette a little better and she likes to talk with her. Even if this latter's life seems mysterious, Mathilda wonders if being a nun would be her vocation, if she can love God and the Lady in this way by consecrating herself in their service for the benefit of souls. On the other hand, she is interested in boys too and would really like to have children.

So many thoughts and reflections keep running through Mathilda's mind! During adolescence, we all question ourselves. What will I do later? What is my calling? Where will I find happiness? What career or profession would be best for me? And since, generally speaking, the answers to those questions aren't always very clear, they can be

anguishing and make us suffer.

Although this isn't a topic you hear spoken of in today's society, the idea of a Christian vocation still exists. It is a personal call from God which allows us to fulfill His plan of love for us. It is our path of life.

Marriage, to which most people are destined, the religious or priestly life, reserved to a smaller number, and celibacy, a fairly rare vocation, are the three states of life facing you.

Among all those who receive our monthly letters and are open to the teaching in them, perhaps some have secretly had thoughts similar to Mathilda's? One thing is certain, all of them, like you, are questioning themselves on their future. What is important is to always be there where God wants us to be, for that is where we will find happiness.

In order to understand what God has planned for you personally, you must start by praying, asking Heaven to guide you in discerning this. God really does want to reveal His secret to you, but this can take a lot of time, much prayer, reflection and faithfulness to your faith. It is also important to remain open and attentive interiorly and to trust in God. If you realize that you are feeling afraid of the future or even afraid of what could be asked of you, then, as the little Thérèse teaches us, quickly make an act of trust and love in God who wants to guide your life. In this regard, Marie-Paule wrote to a young girl: "The little Thérèse of the Child Jesus is an exceptional example to follow. Blest are they who take her as their patron saint to be imitated in the little things; right away, they understand the gentle paternity of the Father and His love of simple and humble souls."

When Mathilda spoke of her impressions concerning Saint Thérèse's life to her mother, she made a wise recommendation: during the next school holidays, perhaps Mathilda could spend a few days with the Sisters in order to be better able to understand their way of life. Mathilda will think this over. In the meantime, she, like you, will have to live each passing day by striving to accomplish God's will with love. The path that is reserved for her will become clearer as the months, the years and events come to pass. And then, from one letter to the next, maybe we will be able to discover better what God expects of her?

The Daughters of Mary