



St Therese of Lisieux In Memory of Charles Bigler

The window of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, born in Alençon, in the Normandy region in France, is interesting. On January 2, 1873, she was born weak and frail. At the age of four, her mother passed away of breast cancer, and Thérèse's strong-willed disposition was dampened. She was very intelligent and advanced in her education at a young age. At the age of nine, she turned to Our Mother Mary as her companion and mother. Her father took Thérèse to see Pope Leo XIII for an audience. She pleaded to be allowed to join the Carmelites; she was 15. New Year's Day of the next year, she was received into Le Carmel.

During her time in her community at Le Carmel, she developed her "Little Way," a spiritual path of holiness. She passed away at the age of 24 in 1897. Her canonization took place May 17, 1925.

Possible Reasons for the Window

Researching the reasons why families choose particular windows to be depicted at St. Joseph's, I couldn't find why St. Thérèse was chosen. There are several children of Charles that were in the profession of nursing and medicine. Also, it is common for Catholics to become attached to recently canonized saints, just as people cherish St. John Paul,

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Stained glass window of
St. Therese of Lisieux.
~Donated in memory of Charles
Bigler and family.

Father's corner:

Spirituality of Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus

The life of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux is very interesting, as it shows us a simple yet deeply spiritual life. And it leads us to believe that God's calling to us: to be saints, is indeed possible. Here are some of her quotes and reflections that motivate us to learn more about her life and to follow the path she discovered and shares with us to achieve a life of holiness.

St. Thérèse's spiritual journey was lonely. Of course, she received a lot from her family, from her educators, and from the Carmelite teachers. But no priest left a deep mark on her. In her, the Holy Spirit traced a path of authenticity – "I have never sought anything but the truth" – which revealed to her the depths of the Trinitarian Love and a "Way" to reach them, without any concern for being didactic: everything came from life, from daily events re-read in the light of the Word of God.

In June 1897, very ill, Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus wrote obediently in a small notebook the memories of her religious life addressed to her prioress, Mother Marie de Gonzague.

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Priests of the past

Rev. Lawrence A. Drone 1967–1970

In 1967, Father Lawrence Drone replaced Father Orford as Pastor of St. Joseph's. Liturgical changes continued and the Parish Council was reorganized during his time as pastor.



Father Lawrence Drone

****We are making a video with pictures of weddings here at St. Joseph****

Email photos to sapphoto@yahoo.com

Please include your names, maiden names, and date/year of wedding.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux (CONTINUED)

Mother Teresa, and Padre Pio, our recent saints. Someone in the Bigler family might have been very devoted to St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

Bigler Family

We know that Charles Bigler's father, Anthony Joseph Bigler, came from Switzerland and his mother was Mary Anna Nitto from Germany. We know that Charles was born in 1862 and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in 1938. Charles and his wife Catherine had eleven children.

Several children appear to be very devoted to St. Joseph's Church. It is believed at least Rosemary and Anna Louise were very active in the church. Arthur Bigler, a son, is Judge Bigler's grandfather. Otto Bigler, another son, worked at the CCC Camp at Giant City. Augusta Bigler was probably a doctor. Charles was also the uncle of Elizabeth Cerny and great-uncle of Catherine, Richard, Norbert, and Lawrence Cerny.

Thank you to Cathrine Cerny Gibbs and Molly Cerny for contributing this article.

Parish Pearls**First Settlers of St Joseph**

The first Roman Catholic settlers in Cobden, which was then called South Pass, were, according to the records, the families of Matthias Clemens, Joseph Bigler, Frank Manzer, Joseph Metz, Benjamin Basler and John Sweitzer. They migrated from Germany in 1853. The Flamm, Stadelbacher and Ihle families came from Germany a few years later. Traditionally, these early settlers were farming families.

The first Masses were celebrated in the home of Matthias Clemens by a "traveling priest" from Kentucky. The priest would travel on horseback throughout the area.



St. Joseph Parish, 1908

Father's corner (CONTINUED)**"I want to be a saint"**

Thérèse, an ardent adolescent, left for holiness. She wrote to her father: "I will make your glory by becoming a great saint". But very quickly, in Carmel, she came up against her weaknesses and her helplessness, when she compared herself to the Saints. They appear to her like a mountain when she is only a grain of sand. "Growing up is impossible," she says, but without losing heart. She reasoned that if God had placed these desires for holiness in her, it was because there must be a road, a way to climb "the rough staircase of perfection".

The children

The Word of God will open the way for her: "If anyone is very little, let him come to me." (Proverbs, 9:4) "So I came," writes little Thérèse, while wondering what God would do to the little one who would come to Him. She read Isaiah 66: from then on, she understood that she would not be able to climb this staircase alone but that Jesus will take her in his arms, like a rapid elevator. From then on, Thérèse's littleness was no longer an obstacle, on the contrary, the smaller and lighter she is in Jesus' arms, the more He will make her holy by a rapid ascension. This is how Thérèse recounts her discovery of the Little Way. It is first of all a discovery of what God is: essentially Merciful Love. From now on, she will see all the divine perfections (including her Justice) through the prism of his Mercy.

Accepting to let yourself be taken in by God does not imply any easy infantilism. Thérèse will do everything possible to concretely show her love for God and her sisters, but in total gratuity, that of love. In all the situations and all the acts of her life, Thérèse will "apply" this way: God asks her this, she feels that she is incapable of it, therefore He will do it in her. An example: loving all her sisters as Jesus loves them is impossible for her. So, uniting herself with Him, it is He who will love them in Thérèse.

Here is a path of holiness which opens up for all, the little ones, the poor, the wounded: to accept the reality of our weakness and to offer ourselves to God as we are so that He can act in us. "Jesus is pleased to show me the only way which leads to this Divine furnace, this way is the abandonment of the little child who falls asleep without fear in the arms of his Father."