



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
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15th SUNDAY in Ordinary Time (A) 16th July 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: *(on request)*

**congratulations to
Anthony-Jacob, Karl and Jonah
who received First Holy Communion last Sunday**



SCAN to GIVE
You can scan this QR
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Sunday donation.
Thank you.

M.L. UNI A G.Z.

This engraving stands for "Martin Louis united to Guerin Zélie". On July 12th 1858, as they exchanged their marriage vows, Louis placed this silver medallion - he had especially designed for the occasion - in Zélie right hand, saying "Receive the symbol of our wedding promises.



On the front of the medallion the meeting between Tobias and Sarah with the inscription of their names, "Louis" and " Zélie."

One day, while crossing the bridge of St Leonard, in Alençon, over the river Sarthe, they 'heard' in their heart that God had chosen one for the other. After few months of engagement, they got married.

Zélie, 27, ran a very successful lace-making business. Louis, 35, a skilful watch and clock maker, owned a lucrative jewellery shop. Both had tested their vocation in their youth with religious life.

What happened on St Leonard's bridge?

Zélie heard an 'inner voice' and so did Louis. This same inner voice was going to keep speaking once married and guide their lives. They had decided to remain in continence, like the Holy Family. After ten months, this same 'inner voice' spoke to them in the person of their Parish Priest who encouraged them to be open to God's plan. They had nine children: 4 died prematurely and the 5 girls who survived all entered religious life. Their last daughter is known as St Therese of Lisieux.

This 'inner voice' helped them not to settle down with a bourgeois life keeping them generous with the poor. This same voice spoke during the 5am Mass they attended daily and on Sundays. And when this voice became 'silent' - during the years of Zélie cancer and Louis mental illness - they still had ears to listen.

Their marriage medallion telling the story of Tobias and Sarah led by the voice of the Archangel Raphael, was more than an expensive jewel or a holy souvenir. This medallion was the concrete proof that God is faithful to his Word. God had spoken to each one of them on that bridge a specific word, to do with their vocation, a word they had heard and welcomed, a word which bore fruit, 'canonized fruits'!

Last Wednesday, 12th July, was the Feast Day of Ss Louis and Zélie. Back then, and still today, God - the Sower - goes out to sow, speaking, making concrete promises, looking for someone to believe in his Word. Listen to today's Gospel at Mass. Ask Ss Louis and Zélie to help you welcome the 'seed' scattered by the Sower and see the fruit it bears... 30, 60, 100, even canonized (not candied) fruits!

In manus.

Father Ivano