



## Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin

(1823-1894) (1831-1877)

Louis Martin was born on 22 August 1823 in Bordeaux, France. The third of five children of a French military family, Louis sought to enter the monastic life when he was 22, but was turned away because of his difficulty in learning Latin. He settled in Alençon and became a watchmaker.

Marie-Azélie Guérin was born on 23 December 1831 near Alençon. The second of three children, she, too, first sought the religious life, but was turned away due to poor health. She returned home and became a maker of the famous lace known as Point d'Alençon.

By God's Providence, Louis and Zélie met and fell almost immediately in love; they were married just three months later on 12 July 1858. Seven daughters and two sons were born to them, although four died in infancy. In spite of their grief, Louis and Zélie never lost their faith in God, and devoted themselves completely to the Catholic formation of their children. All five daughters would enter the religious life. The little Benjamin of the family, Marie-Thérèse, is of course known to all the world as "The Little Flower"—St. Thérèse of Lisieux!

The Martins were beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on 19 October 2008, and canonized by Pope Francis on 18 October 2015—the first couple to be canonized together. Their feast day is 12 July.

*Saints Louis and Zélie Martin—pray for us!*