
THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

To Be A Saint!

We continue our mini-series on "poems to memorize" by featuring one composed by an American poet named Joyce Kilmer.

Joyce was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1886. He attended Columbia University and as a young man he worked for the publishing company Funk and Wagnalls. His job was to write the definitions for words that would be published in a very big dictionary. At first he was paid five cents a word but he was such a workhorse (meaning he composed so many definitions) that the publisher was forced to put him on a set salary!

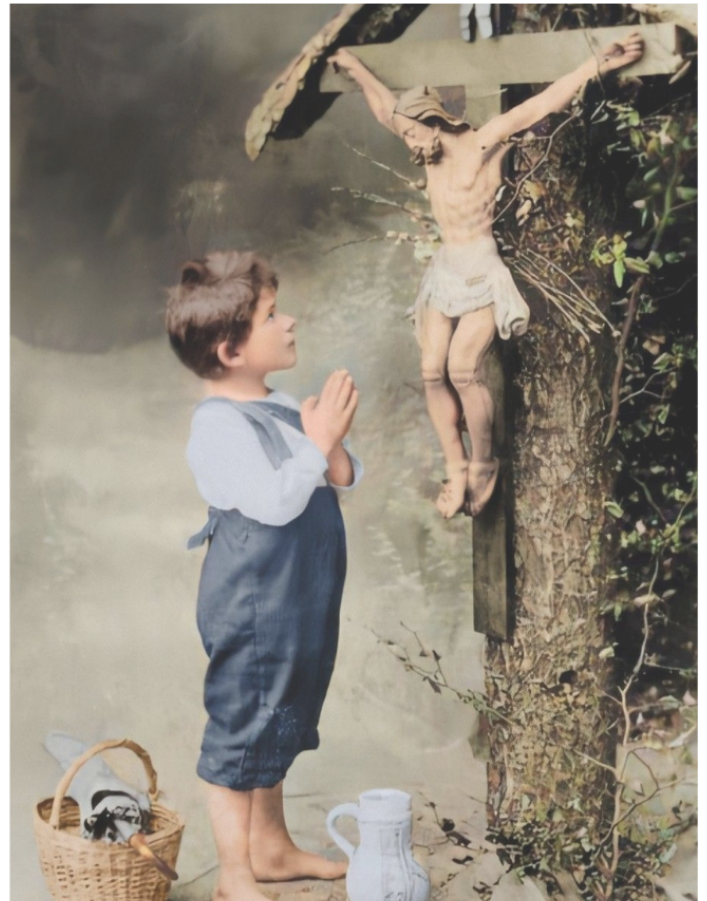
Joyce married a woman named Aline Murray (also a writer) and together they had five children. When their daughter Rose was diagnosed with infantile paralysis, Joyce turned to a priest that he knew named Father James J. Daly for support. After many exchanges, Father received Joyce and Aline into the Catholic Church in 1913. In a letter to Father Daly, Joyce writes: "Faith did come. It came, I think, by way of my little paralyzed daughter. Her lifeless hands led me; I think her tiny feet know beautiful paths..."

Joyce was enlisted in the New York National Guard and was deployed to France during World War I. He lost his life at the Second Battle of Marne in 1918 at the age of thirty-one. At the time of his death, he was considered the leading poet of his generation.

Our poem to memorize this week is called "Trees" and it is Joyce Kilmer's most famous.

I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;



A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Be sure to join us for our next Guided Holy Hour on Monday, April 29th at 6:30pm with Mrs. Hampton and one of our Ave Maria clergy. (I'll be in Alabama at EWTN that day, recording two interviews about CK101 and our Guided Eucharistic Holy Hours for Children :)

Mrs. Prather, Catholic Kids 101
"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"