
THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

A Season of Saints!

Anicka "Annie" Zelíková was born in 1924 into a Catholic family that lived in Napajedla, Moravia. Moravia is a place quite far away from here in central Europe, located in the Czech Republic. Annie was always full of life and brought great joy to her family and friends. Even at a very early age, Annie loved Jesus with all of her heart! She liked to read the lives of the Saints and two of her favorites were St. John Bosco and St. Thérèse of Lisieux. When Annie was sixteen, she wrote, "True beauty is hidden in faithfulness in little things. I always desired to do great and heroic deeds of love, but when I saw that I was unable, I was grieved by it. Now I find great heroism precisely in little things, so that now I haven't the slightest regret whether I can do something or not." Around this time, Annie learned about something very sad that made her cry. She learned that there were some women in the world who find out that there is a baby in their womb and they are afraid to be mothers. They go to a place to have their baby removed before he or she is ready to be born. Annie understood how much Jesus loves these women and didn't want them to be afraid! Annie told Jesus that she would spend her life praying for these women so they wouldn't be afraid. She felt a call in her heart to be a Carmelite nun and desired to enter the Carmelite Monastery in Prague where she would spend most of her time in prayer. However, before Annie could enter the Carmelite Monastery, she became very ill. Her doctor diagnosed her illness as a serious case of tuberculosis. Even when she became too sick and weak to do anything else, Annie practiced what she called the "apostleship of smiling." She explained, "I must smile to my last breath. All I can give God now are my heartbeats and my smile. Nothing is left to me except for love and trust."

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"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"



Servant of God Anicka Zelíková

As the tuberculosis progressed, Annie was given special permission to make her profession as a Carmelite Third Order Secular. Secular means a person living in the world, who does not belong to a monastery or religious order. Secular Carmelites live in the world according to the ideals and spirit of the Carmelite order. (A person can also be a secular Franciscan, Dominican, Cistercian, etc.) Seven months after Annie made her profession as a Secular Carmelite, she passed from this world into the arms of Jesus, smiling to the very end. Her final statement was, "I trust," and the last audible word she could speak was, "Carmel." Annie was buried with the "Rule for Third Order Carmelites" over her heart.

Next week begins our Advent journey! Join us for a four week series based on "The Tiny Jesus Chaplet."