



The veneration of the Relics of Saint Therese of The Child Jesus and the Holy Face began shortly after her death (September 1897), at the cemetery, by her tomb.



The reason is that Saint Therese's death notice published by the Carmel was composed from her writings. It became so well known that it was then decided to publicly release "The Story of a Soul". The first issue came out on September 30, 1898, with a 2.000 copies distribution. It was followed in May 1899 by a second release, and again in 1900, this time in 6.000 copies. Translations followed; the first one in English, in 1901, then in eight languages within the next four years.

Pilgrimages to Lisieux quickly followed the publications of "The Story of a Soul" whose readers came to stand and pray by Saint Therese's graveyard. Then they requested relics of Saint Therese to the Carmel. The pilgrims multiplied, every day in Lisieux one could see crowds of people coming out from the train station and walking up to the heights of the city to the cemetery. News of miracles were being spread, like the one on a 4 years old baby girl, Reine Fouquet, cured from her blindness on May 26, 1908. Her mother, of very modest living condition, had came especially to Lisieux to carry her little child to Saint Therese's tomb.

From then, pilgrimages to Lisieux intensify. People come and pray, leaving letters, pictures, flowers, ex-votos by the tomb, lighting candles. Numerous gatherings and huge pilgrimages are getting organized.

Therese's body is exhumed at the cemetery of Lisieux on September 6, 1910, in presence of the bishop and hundreds of people. She is transferred to another graveyard in a lead coffin. Her body is exhumed a second time on August 9-10, 1917. On March 26 1923 the solemn transportation of the coffin takes place, from the cemetery to the chapel of the Carmel. The beatification of Therese is proclaimed in Rome on April 29, 1923.

Her canonisation took place in Roma on May 17, 1925. In Lisieux, on September 1925, Cardinal Vico comes and kneels down in front of the half-opened shrine where Saint Therese's body rests, to set down a golden rose in her hand. (The rose was made in 1920 by monk Marie-Bernard from the Trappe of Soligny).



The veneration of the Relics of Saint Therese started in France around 1947. It is since 1995 that the ecclesiastical authorities of Lisieux agreed that they could travel the world.

The Reliquary is a real oeuvre d'art, made of jacaranda wood and silver. Made by a young brazilian artisan, the Reliquary is a gift from Brazil.

