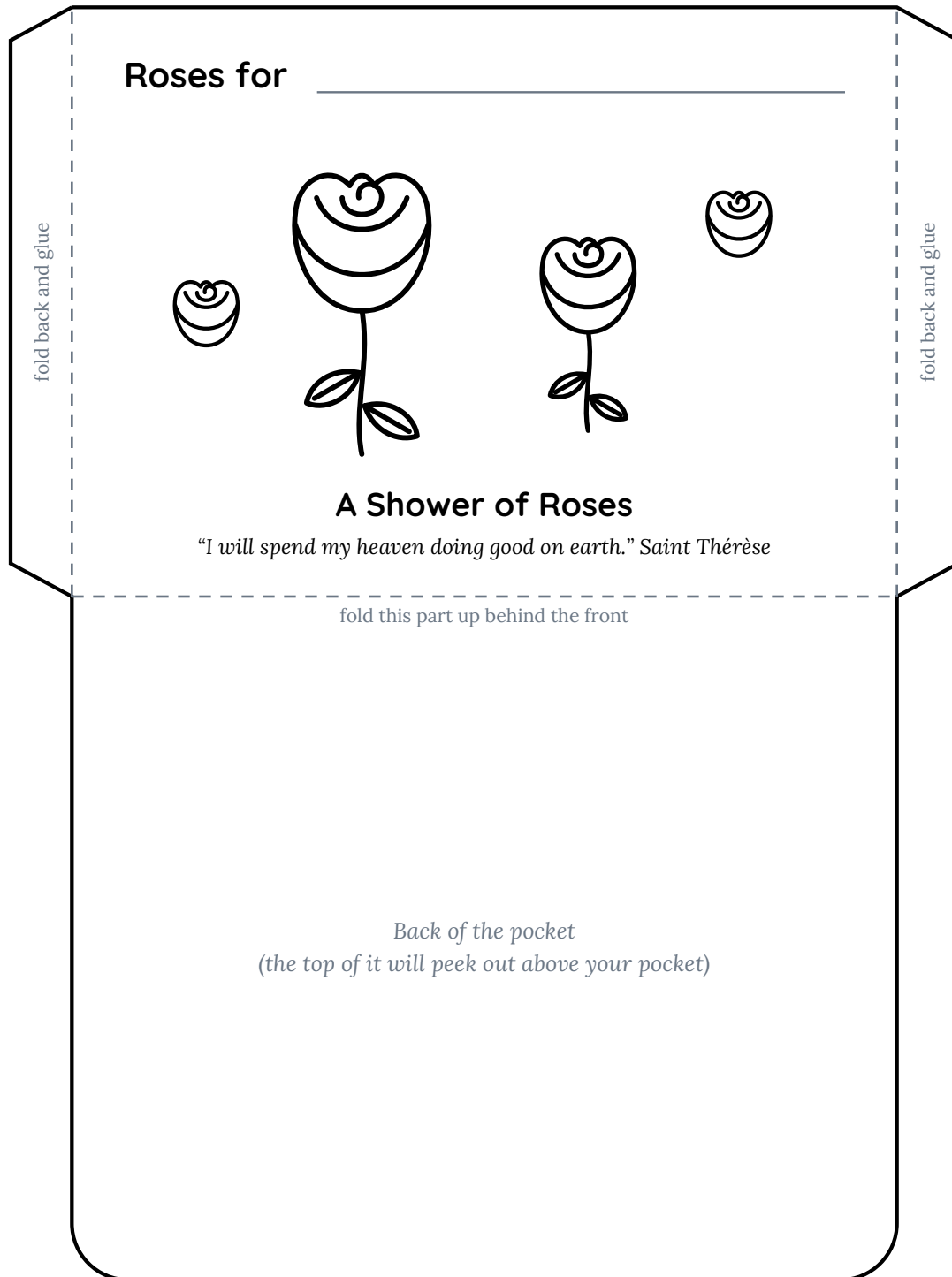


My Shower of Roses Pocket

Saint Thérèse promised to spend her heaven doing good on earth, like a shower of roses.

- 1 Cut along the solid outline.
- 2 Fold the two side tabs back.
- 3 Fold the bottom part up behind the front.
- 4 Glue the tabs to it, and color your roses.



Rose Cards

Write your rose friend's card first. Then write roses for anyone you like. Little ones can draw!



To: _____

I noticed you...

From: _____



To: _____

You were kind when...

From: _____



To: _____

Thank you for...

From: _____



To: _____

You're good at...

From: _____



To: _____

You make me smile when...

From: _____



To: _____

I'm glad you're here because...

From: _____



To: _____

You helped me when...

From: _____



To: _____

My rose for you:

From: _____



A Shower of Roses: leader's guide

A Saint Thérèse kindness activity for children aged 4 to 9, like a bucket-filling activity: each child makes a pocket, and the class fills every pocket with “roses”, kind notes about something real they noticed.

You'll need

For each child: the pocket page and one or two rose card pages. Scissors, glue sticks, crayons and pencils. A wall, board or desks for the pockets.

Tell Thérèse's story

Thérèse lived in a convent with a sister who was often grumpy with her. Instead of keeping away, Thérèse looked for the good in her and was extra kind, so kind that the sister felt sure Thérèse loved her best of all. Thérèse promised that in heaven she would let kindnesses fall on the whole world, like a shower of roses, and no one would be left out.

Our class goal: every pocket full

Say it plainly at the start: “Thérèse wanted *everyone* to receive her roses. Our shower of roses only works if every single pocket fills up. Let's make sure nobody in our class is missed.”

Rose friends

Each child quietly draws one classmate's name: their rose friend. Nobody tells anyone who they drew. The first rose each child writes is for their rose friend, about something good they really noticed them do: sharing, helping, trying hard, making someone laugh. After that, children write roses for anyone they like. Because everyone receives both kinds, no one can tell which roses were from a rose friend, and every one of them is true.

Pray before the roses

Pray Saint Thérèse's prayer together *before* the children write. In it they ask God to help them do the little things today, a kind word, a helping hand, with great love, and their rose cards are the first chance to do exactly that. A heartfelt prayer first makes for heartfelt roses:

Dear God, I am small, but my love can be big. Help me to do the little things today, a kind word, a helping hand, a happy smile, all with great love, the way Saint Thérèse did. Amen.

Two ways to run it

- **Over a week (best):** on the first day, tell the story, make the pockets, explain the class goal, draw rose friends, and pray the prayer together. Begin each day of the week with the prayer while children watch their rose friend for something good. On the last day, pray it once more, then write the roses and fill the pockets.
- **In one session (30 to 40 minutes):** story (5 minutes), make pockets (10), explain the class goal and draw names (3), pray the prayer together (2), a few quiet minutes thinking of something good about your rose friend (3), write roses (10). As the pockets are handed back, close with “Saint Thérèse, pray for us.”

Quiet safety nets

- Read the cards before they go into pockets.
- Before handing the pockets back, look inside each one privately and add a rose of your own to any that look thin. Never ask the class who needs more.
- Let children read their roses privately, or take them home. No reading aloud.
- Little ones can draw a picture on their card, or tell you their words to write.

More ideas for Saint Thérèse's feast day (October 1), and the book *Thérèse and the Little Way*, are at littlesaintsbighearts.com/saint-therese-feast-day