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# Olivia And The Little Way



## Synopsis

Fifth grader Olivia Thomas has moved to a new school in a new state, and is eager to make friends! Her best friend quickly becomes someone she has never seen: St. Therese of Lisieux. Follow Olivia's trials as she tries to fit in at St. Michael's School. With the help of her grandmother, she learns about the Little Way of serving God and how it can change everything! 2009 Catholic Press Association award winner, children's books.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Olivia and the Little Way by Nancy Carabio Belanger is one of my favorite new books for a few reasons. First off, it is a wonderful, engaging story! Secondly, without being dogmatic the author is able to lovingly teach the reader about many of the important precepts of St Therese of Lisieux, one of the most important saints and a Doctor of the Catholic Church. The life lessons shared in this book are wonderful for a middle school aged audience, but the story will capture the hearts of a much more broad audience (including the moms of the those middle schoolers!) I'm hoping that this will be the first of many books to come from author Nancy Carabio Belanger and that you will enjoy this book as much as I did!

Olivia and the Little Way is a delightful children's novel about Olivia Thomas, a ten year old who moves with her family from Texas to Michigan. She is nervous about going to a new school so her grandmother gives her a St. Thérèse chaplet and tells her about 'The Little Way,' that St. Thérèse believed that "you can show your love for God by doing little things for Him with great love." As each day goes by, Olivia learns how to love others through the Little Way. Later in the

story, however, she makes a poor choice and must deal with the consequences. Olivia is frustrated and admits that the Little Way is not always easy. Her grandmother tells her, "You cannot expect to follow the Little Way without some hardship along the way. It is a work in progress. Do not get discouraged...God does not expect perfection; He only wants you to try your best every day." This is wonderful advice, not only for Olivia, but for all of us. St. Thérèse has been one of my favorite saints since I visited Lisieux as a teenager many years ago, so I especially enjoyed this book and the St. Thérèse quotes at the beginning of each chapter. In this well-written and engaging novel, author Nancy Carabio Belanger illustrates St. Thérèse's Little Way in a delightful and unique approach without being preachy or dogmatic. I highly recommend this wonderful book not only for children, but for anyone interested in following the Little Way. Ellen Gable Hrkach award-winning author  
In Name Only

I love to read but I have never written a review before. However, I just finished reading this book with my eight year old daughter and felt absolutely compelled to write about it! BOTH of my daughters (I also have an 11-year old) and I LOVED IT! While being an interesting story about the challenges of life for a fifth grade girl at a new school, it is also a great look at how to incorporate St. Therese's "Little Way" into everyday life, especially for a school age girl. It very cleverly weaves in the stories of personal challenges told by St. Therese herself in her autobiography "Story of a Soul". I am so grateful to have found a book for my tween daughters that is interesting, innocent, sweet, and yet very real.

Author, Nancy Belanger, knows that on some level, we ALL (preteens, teens, and even adults) struggle to fit in. We wonder what everyone expects from us, how to act in certain situations, and yes, often cave to satisfy the "popular norm" even though it may not be our personal choice. These little occurrences happen daily and we feel the stress of being true to our self and to our faith. "OLIVIA AND THE LITTLE WAY" (and don't miss it's sequel, "OLIVIA'S GIFT") take us on that journey with a young girl tempted as we all are, by the many material things life has to offer. She learns that some things, and some people, aren't as she thought ... thought of as friends. How does she [we] find the right path and, more challenging, the strength to walk it! "OLIVIA" books will empower you to choose that path and the books are a delight to read. Entertaining and exciting with a story that conveys such a powerful message in such a subtle "little way." Tweens won't be able to put it down as each adventure draws them to the next chapter and they feel and see so much of themselves in Olivia and so much parallel in the daily pressures of growing up. Teen and adult

readers will also be reminded by this delightful novel to choose their path wisely. Highly recommend this book and the sequel, "Olivia's Gift" Give a gift that's entertaining, fun, exciting, and adventurous mixed with a dose of faith, morals, values, and strength of character. Build a better tomorrow, one reader at a time! Enjoy and thank you Nancy for these treasures.

I am always looking for excellent Christian books to recommend to my students and give as gifts. But so many are either too preachy or not well-written. Olivia and The Little Way surprised and delighted me! As an English teacher, I have always said that the test of a good children's book is that an ADULT will enjoy it. Both this book and its sequel, Olivia's Gift, kept me reading from cover to cover. As a Secular Carmelite with a special affection for St. Therese, I not only enjoyed these books as "good reads," but I was blessed by them. The quotations from St. Therese's works at the beginning of each chapter were great -- a reminder of why Therese is my favorite saint.

A truly unique and fresh way to share the details of the life of a saint (in this case St. Therese of Lisieux) by making her an important ally in the life of a young girl. A real-life application of the riches of the saints is something we can all benefit from. Please write more!

This book is WONDERFUL!! I have nothing but praise for it. Olivia (the main character) is a 5th grader, but my daughter (just completed 2nd grade) just read it and I do not think it was above her at all. It deals with social interaction and peer pressure - especially at school and in dealing with different types of friends. It positively shows devotion to the Saints, faith in God, obedience to parents, and everyone's deepest desire to be loved. Our Catholic pediatrician recommended it and I cannot thank her enough! This is definitely going to be my "go to" for birthday presents and Christmas gifts for my nieces and nephews, younger cousins, and Godchildren.

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