

Feast Day of Blessed Theresa

May 9, 2016

Our charism, gift of the Spirit, was embodied in Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, who, longing for the oneness of all in God, grounded the congregation in Eucharist, anchored it in poverty, and dedicated it to Mary.

YAS PROLOGUE

Leader:

Our charism continues to develop in the living community, which enriched by the past, enables the congregation to unfold in the present and to be challenged by the future.

YAS PROLOGUE

All:

Trust and Dare. Content with little, we joyfully direct our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent.

YAS C 4

Psalm 63

Antiphon: I cannot describe my interior peace, now I am in Jesus. May he do what he wants with me.

O God, you are my God, I long for you; my soul thirsts for you! My body seeks for you as in a dry and weary land without water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

For your constant love is better than life, so I will bless you as long as I live. I will lift up my hands and call upon your name.

My soul feasts on you and my mouth praises you as I think of you upon my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night, for you have always been my help.

In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy, my soul clings to you; your hand upholds me.

Glory to you, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

Reading from Mary Maher, SSND

Consider a beautiful singing bowl.

This represents the deep story of the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Here in my other hand we have this wooden clangor which represents the pressing needs, the cries of our specific historical time and place.



Now we strike the gong. The sound is our charism, the concrete historical meeting of God's gift to us with the needs of our times.

Quiet reflection on the reading.

Responses:

- In 1847, the sounding of the gong occurred when a small group of sister missionaries went to North America to teach immigrant children.
- The gong sounded 45 years ago when sisters from North America went to the continent of Africa which flourishes now as a province.
- Just one year ago, the sounding gong proclaimed the corporate stance against human trafficking made by the Atlantic-Midwest Province.
- The beautiful sounding gong echoed throughout the world when SSND achieved NGO status at the United Nations.

Please add you own examples.

Closing Prayer

Trust God and one another enough to dare to risk all that God's kingdom be proclaimed more effectively. Wherever we are, whatever our work and lifestyle, there is more that we can dare, can be, can do. In Mother Theresa's spirit, let us trust our God and one another, and dare all for the kingdom, trusting that the world can and will be transformed. Blessed Theresa, pray for us.

