

## References to the Triune God in the Writings of Blessed Theresa

### ***Farewell Letter to the Sisters before leaving for America***

All this, dear Sisters, ought to encourage us to childlike trust, heartfelt thanks, and burning love of God, who has been so infinitely good to us poor creatures. Yes, dear Sisters, *let us begin again to serve the Triune God* all our lives with joy, to obey God, to love God above all, as we will do eternally in our heavenly homeland. (#714, May 30, 1847, Feast of the Holy Trinity, Vol. 6, p. 39)

*I solemnly commend all the sisters to the most Holy Trinity.* May God the Father care for you all and keep you steadfast and faithful in your holy vocation! May God the Son deliver you from all evil of sin and be the way you walk, the truth you follow, and the life you lead! May the Holy Spirit preserve you in love and grace! May Mary, the Mother of Divine Grace and the Mother of Our Order, take you all into her loving, maternal heart and stand by you in life and in death! May your holy guardian angels accompany you, all the children in our schools, and the young women in our boarding schools on every path “lest you strike your foot against a stone.” (#714, May 30, 1847, Feast of the Holy Trinity, Vol. 6, pp. 41-42)

### ***Letter to Father Siegert before leaving America for Europe***

During these last hours of farewell, I want to write a few lines from this house, which is dedicated to God, in case God calls me to eternity on the journey. *In the name of the Most Holy Trinity and the Holy Name of Mary*, I recommend to you once again the work of God begun on both continents and its members whom the Holy Spirit has brought together. (#735, July 20, 1848, Vol. 6, p. 164)

*Praised and blessed be the most Holy Trinity*—and our dearest heavenly mother, Mary—in whose presence we will one day meet again, greet one another, and rejoice eternally in God. (#735, July 20, 1848, Vol. 6, p. 167)

### ***Letter to all the sisters announcing the approval of the rule***

As for myself, I confidently cry out with Simeon, “Now, O Lord, let your servant go in peace!” *Praise, honor, and thanks to the Triune God* and to Mary, the most holy Mother of Our Order! (#2912, June 9, 1859, Vol. 5, p. 17)

### ***Letter to a Bishop telling about the death of a sister***

Finally, I would also like to tell you that today we received word from Gorizia that the hour of the birth of our Lord was our good Sister Sidonia’s hour of death. According to what we heard, she slept away peacefully during the consecration at Midnight Mass and *entered her true homeland where she will see and adore the unveiled Trinity with the angels for all eternity.* (#3206, December 29, 1860, Vol. 5, p. 68)

### ***Letter to Sister Richarda, a Silver Jubilarian***

Twenty-five years have passed since you, dear Sister, and your companion sisters made your first holy profession in our motherhouse. Twenty-five years spent in work, care, and suffering—a beautiful number of years spent in serving God!

There is surely cause for rejoicing if our conscience testifies that we have lived our holy vows in fidelity and sincerity for the love of God and our own interior sanctification, and if, in our angelic vocation, we have prepared hundreds of children for heaven. The angels are recording this in the Book of Life, and the memory of this beautiful time will gladden us through all eternity. *Glory and praise to the Triune God!* (#4380, October 15, 1869, Vol. 15, p. 31)

(Over)

### ***Farewell to the Sisters before her death***

I wish to extend a special motherly greeting to the sisters in other countries who are personally unknown to me and to thank you for the prayers you have said for me. Even if, in this mortal life, the great distance that separates us demands difficult sacrifices, God, who leaves nothing unrewarded, will surely be our reward. *How much happier our reunion will be in eternity where separation will be no more, and we will rejoice together in eternally thanking and praising the Triune God!* For this I hope with confident trust in Jesus' infinite mercy and the merits of his Precious Blood. (#5319, March 4, 1878, Vol. 15, p. 202)

### **References to the Triune God in the Writings of or about Mother Caroline**

“With love, greeting you and blessing you in the name of the Most Holy Trinity, + + + M. Caroline” (#100, December 27, 1877, *The Letters of Mother Caroline Friess*, p. 217)

“The first stone has been laid [at Belleville, Illinois] by priestly hands, under the invocation of the most high strength of the Triune God! Who could have doubts about success?” (#188, April 17, 1884, *The Letters of Mother Caroline Friess*, p. 356)

“Let us in all humility implore the mercies of the Lord, that in the year 1887, the *adoremus in aeternum* [perpetual adoration] may be granted our congregation. So be it for the honor and glory of the Triune God, in atonement for our transgressions, for the special sanctification of every Sister, for the God pleasing continued existence of our Order – and for myself as a blessed “Nunc dimittis.” “Now, O Lord let Thy servant depart in peace, for her eyes have seen Thy Salvation” – have bequeathed Salvation to her children.” (#226, before January 1, 1887, *The Letters of Mother Caroline Friess*, p. 419)

“Hearty, maternal greetings to each and all. Anticipating the loving and peaceful embrace of Jesus Christ, I send my blessing in the name and in the power of the Most Holy Trinity. + + + Ever lovingly and prayerfully, Your M. Caroline (#249, December 26, 1888, *The Letters of Mother Caroline Friess*, p. 446)

“I greet you all from the bottom of my heart and bless you in the name of the most Holy Trinity. + + + Mother M. Caroline, Com. Gen. S.S.N.D. (#262, October 7, 1890, *The Letters of Mother Caroline Friess*, p. 473)

### **Excerpt from a biography of Mother Caroline**

The chief means by which she placed herself under the influence of grace were the following:

1. The acts of the three Divine Virtues which she repeated again and again, slowly and in a meditative manner, in connection with the various mysteries of the ecclesiastical year, particularly those of Lent, Easter and Pentecost.
2. Special invocations of the Most Holy Trinity, to which mystery she had ever borne a deep and marked devotion.
3. Ejaculations, especially to Jesus Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother. (P.M Abbelen, *Venerable M. Caroline Friess: A Sketch of her Life and Character*, B. Herder Book Co., St. Louis, 1917, p. 220)