



Vocation REFLECTIONS

OCTOBER 2026

Prayer

"... I want to love.
It is my wish,
my deep longing,
always to love,
always to
love You.

Still, O God,
I ask myself:
How can
I love you?
How should
I love You?
And
You answer:
Believe Me.
Trust Me.
Do whatever
I tell you.
Love your
neighbor.
And give Me
your heart.
For whoever
loves gives
everything
with joy."

From
"You, God"
by Fr. Theo
Schmidkonz, S.J.
p. 46 (c) 1992

Strength for your discernment

by Sister Bridget Waldorf, SSND

Her life was filled with work and worry - and yet, she "knew how to avoid being overwhelmed by it all. She was a woman of wisdom and faith who brought work and prayer into harmony. God was her center. Her gaze was fixed on God, whom she recognized as coming to her in each event, knocking at her door in each request. In her more than 5,000 letters she often thanked and praised God for all that has happened to her....Again and again she urged her sisters to seek the inner center of their lives and abide in the God they found there. She wrote, 'May Jesus be the way you go, the truth you follow, the life you lead.'"^[1]

These words, found in a short biography about Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, caught my attention. I think her witness offers something to all who are discerning a call of importance.

God was her center. Her gaze was fixed on God who was present at each event and in every request. She thanked and praised God. She urged others to seek the inner center and abide in the God found there. She saw Jesus as the way, the truth and the life.

Perhaps you can schedule some time to pray with this inspiration from Blessed Theresa. Ask for help in making God your center. Ask for the grace to fix your eyes on God and notice God in each event. Pray for the faith to recognize God in every request that comes to you. Thank and praise God for what has been. Just sit and be with the God who loves you; abide with the God within. Ask Jesus to show you the way to go and the truth to follow and the life to lead.

Two final thoughts from Blessed Theresa:

- "...we can direct ourselves to God's will and overcome our own."^[2]
- "In the activity of Martha, let us not forget the deep piety of Mary; at the right time, let us also rest at the feet of Jesus."^[3]

It takes time to be quiet enough to seek and listen. Nothing can replace the quiet. Nothing can replace the time of prayer. Blessings!

^[1] School Sisters of Notre Dame, *A Woman Led by the Lord*. (Inland Press, 1985) pg. 25

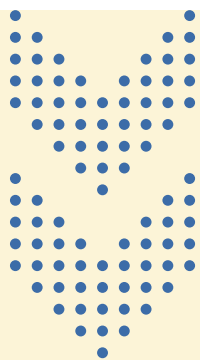
^[2] Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, Letter #2 (September 30, 1823)

^[3] Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, Letter #1862 (February 25, 1855)



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Come and See in Woodhaven, NY

October 17, 2026, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

RSVP to 718-349-9290

Enjoy lunch and learn about religious life

SSND Foundation Day

October 24, 2026

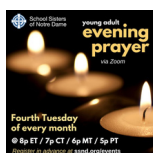
Young Adult Evening Prayer

October 27, 2026

8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT via Zoom

National Vocation Awareness Week (U.S.)

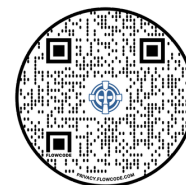
November 1-7, 2026



OCTOBER 2026

God's cause
is the *only concern* of
our hearts
Blessed
Theresa
of Jesus
Gerhardinger

La
causa de Dios
es la *única preocupación* de
nuestros corazones
Beata Teresa de Jesús Gerhardinger



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about discernment, prayer, and other topics related to the consecrated/vowed life.
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