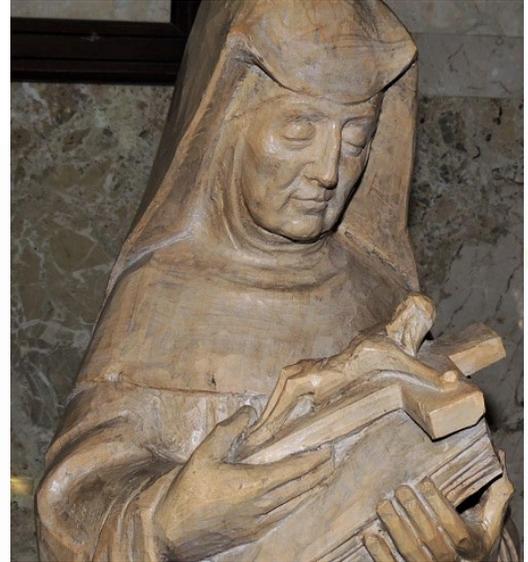




“Blessed Theresa: Emissary of Hope”

Feast of Blessed Theresa
Gerhardinger, SSND
May 9, 2022



Call to Prayer:

Creator God, we gather today as Sisters, Associates and Colleagues to continue our SSND journey, guided by Blessed Theresa and those who have gone before us. At this critical time in the congregation, province and world, we lean on **hope**, for inspiration to find creative ways to respond to the needs of our time.

(Contemplative Pause)

Opening Song:

Let us listen to “[Jesus, Hope of the World](#)” (click link) by Paul Tate and Deanna Light.

Reading: (*You are Sent*, C24-25)

Deep faith and high courage urged Mother Theresa to risk already meager resources to satisfy needs wherever she was called. In her spirit we respond to God’s call expressed in our times. Like her, we educate in schools and in other areas of urgent need; like her, we exclude no one from our concern, but are especially sensitive to youth and women and are impelled to prefer the poor.

Through our ministry, we and those to whom we are sent are mutually enriched. We are enabled to grow in communion with God and with one another and in acceptance of responsibility for the earth and its people. This mutual giving and receiving is itself a witness in our interdependent world.

Questions for Reflection and Sharing:

- How can you hope with deep faith and high courage like Blessed Theresa?
- What is your hope for your community, ministry and the world at this time?
- In hoping, how is the Triune God calling you to respond?



Prayers of the Community:

Prayer Leader – Let us pray that Blessed Theresa will guide our hearts and deepen our commitment to continue to live the challenges of Love Gives Everything and Laudato Si’.

All – In the words of Theresa, “We believe that in our poverty we hope that God will supply what is lacking in us to fulfill this commitment.” (3984)

Prayer Leader – We pray for our Church, that she continues to be a beacon of hope for the faithful, convinced that because of the Resurrection there is new life the midst of division and chaos.

All – As Theresa said, “We place our trust in God and in the powerful intercession of Mary and St. Joseph.” (4050)

Prayer Leader – We pray for all leaders, that they will always work to uphold the dignity of the human person and the care for all creation.

All – We believe with Theresa, “For those who love God, we know that all things work for good.” (4050)

Prayer Leader – We pray for our world in the midst of pandemic, war and climate crisis, believing that God’s strength will accompany us as we strive to be one human family.

All – In Theresa’s spirit, “God has helped wondrously until now; neither will God abandon us in the future.” (5032)

Prayer Leader – For what else shall we pray? (invite others to share)

All – Guided by Theresa, “We will not let our hope sink.” (2793)

(Contemplative Pause)

Closing Prayer:

Creator God, you send us into the heart of the world as agents and ministers of hope. May we hold fast to the **hope** of Blessed Theresa, the same hope that has sustained the Schools Sisters of Notre Dame for 188 years. Move us to hope – hope to carry on your mission of making one in our province and in our world.

The **Department of Ministry Services** gratefully acknowledges Sister Judy Schaum, SSND for her support in designing this year’s feast day prayer.