

With Gratitude and in Faith

150th Jubilee

1863-2013

HE LEADS I FOLLOW

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration • Immaculate Heart of Mary Province



Blessed Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel

Beatified November 10, 2013

Feastday: February 9th

From the Desk of the Provincial

Dear Friends,

As our 150th Jubilee year draws to a close I quote Sr. Fidelis who summarized it so well at our Thanksgiving gathering, “What blessings we have received this year beyond anyone’s imagination. To have our foundress, Mother Maria Theresia, beatified and venerated within our lifetime has been a gift beyond any committee’s planning.”

In a very moving ceremony the day following the Beatification, the remains of Mother Maria Theresia were moved to a Eucharistic chapel within St. Martin Church in Olpe, Germany. Cardinal Cordes summarized her life during his homily as follows: “It is only her spirituality which makes this woman understandable for the faithful. A quotation from the files of the Beatification formulates it completely. ‘She had grown under the soft light of the Eucharistic Sun. In her struggles she always went to the hidden God to find light, courage and strength. That was how the longing came to dedicate her whole life to Eucharistic Adoration. . . . and her love for humanity grew out of the Sacrament of the Altar.’ “

Now each of us is entrusted with the dream and legacy of Blessed Mother Maria Theresia. I pray that we may truly live ‘With gratitude and in Faith: He Leads: I Follow’.

Sister M. Angela



“Who searches spiritual community with our new Blessed, finds in these sentences the spiritual key: her love of humanity grew out of the Sacrament of the Altar. With that, closeness to Christ becomes the decisive message for us in a time of high cultural humanism and mercy... The Eucharistic Lord must be discovered by us anew and must be proclaimed as the opportunity to make possible selfless love.”

Paul Josef Cardinal Cordes

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- 1961 – Mother Francesco began the beatification process in 1961; it was then that Mother Maria Theresia received the title “Servant of God.” All writings were reviewed. All witnesses who knew Mother (including 60 Sisters) were interviewed.
- 1970 – Five large volumes of documents were taken to Rome. They had to be translated into Italian, and later, into Spanish.
- 1975 – Theologians reviewed the material and stressed the high degree of Mother’s extraordinary and heroic virtues, her conscientious observance of the vows until death, and the soundness of theology expressed in her teachings.
- 1995 – The Summarium was completed and submitted to the Congress for Historic.
- 1999 – Luke Burgie was miraculously healed through the intercession of Mother Maria Theresia.
- 2001 – The miracle was given a Decree of Validity.
- 2002 – The Summarium was submitted to the Congregation of Saints for review.
- 2010 – Pope Benedict XVI declared Mother as “Venerable” - she had heroic virtue.
- 2013 – On March 27 Pope Francis approved the “Decree of Miracle”.
- 2013 – On November 10, 2013 Mother became “Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel”.

September 17, 2013

Jubilee



On September 17th we celebrated our congregational-wide Jubilee Mass and dinner. Honoring us with their presence were bishops, priests, religious, co-workers, friends, and benefactors.



Bishop Kevin Rhoades was the main celebrant at our Mass of Jubilee.



Mass was celebrated at St. Francis Convent. Over 300 of our friends and co-workers came for the event.



(Left to right) Bishop Emeritus William Higi of Lafayette, Bishop Dale Melczek of Gary and Bishop Timothy Doherty of Lafayette were concelebrants.



We were also blessed to have sixty priests concelebrate at the Mass.



The Sisters stand as they are recognized for all of their years of prayer and service as Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.



Sister Ann Kathleen and Sister Marlene pose for a picture with Dr. Walthall, one of our coworkers at Franciscan Alliance, at the reception after the Mass.



Beatification

The following events took place in Paderborn, Germany.



Above: Auxiliary Bishop Matthias König leads a vigil prayer service in honor of the new Blessed the evening of November 9th.

Below: Sister M. Magdalena Krol, Superior General, hands his Eminence, Angelo Cardinal Amato, the relic of the new Blessed during the Mass of Beatification on November 10th. Our own Bishop Kevin Rhoades (directly to the right of the cardinal) was also present.



Above: Cardinal Amato reads the official Decree of Beatification from Pope Francis.

Below: The official portrait of the new Blessed is unveiled.



Above: Cardinal Amato offers the gifts during Mass.

Below: Sister Jane Marie Klein reads one of the Prayers of the Faithful.

November 9-11, 2013

The following events took place in Olpe, Germany.



Above: Bishop Rhoades, Sister Angela, and Sister Rose Agnes venerate Mother's remains.

Middle: The faithful gather at St. Martin Church for the transfer of the body.

Below: The Sisters and priests pray at the Kreuzkapelle, a chapel built in the 18th century, wherein Mother liked to pray.

Above: The Sisters pray with his Eminence, Paul Josef Cardinal Cordes, President of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," and beneficiary of one of the German Sisters' educational ministry. His Eminence offered Vespers on November 11th, the night of the transfer of Mother's remains to St. Martin Church.

Below: Mother's remains were escorted by many Sisters and faithful. The Olpe Fire Department provided an open fire truck for the transfer and display of the coffin.

Above: Various men who have benefited from the Sisters' service to the poor and the orphaned volunteered to be pallbearers of the coffin.

Below: Mother's coffin was displayed for several minutes at the foot of the altar of St. Martin Church before being interred in her new resting place.



Regional Celebrations

We share all the graces that God has bestowed on our Congregation with the countless people with whom we work and serve. We were honored to celebrate our Jubilee with a Mass and reception in four regions: Mishawaka, Ft. Wayne, Griffith, and Lafayette.



The choir sings during the regional celebration in Mishawaka.



Bishop Timothy Doherty receives the gifts from Sisters who are either of St. Boniface Church or have served in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.



Sister Fidelis speaks with Father Theodore Mens during the celebration at St. Mary Church in Griffith.



Sisters pray before the regional celebration Mass at the University of Saint Francis in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.



Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

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Return Service Requested

Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, participate in the mission of the Roman Catholic Church by living the Gospel after the example of Saint Francis and our foundress, Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel. We strive to combine the contemplative life with the active through perpetual adoration and the works of mercy in education, healthcare, and other ecclesial ministries.

*With Gratitude and in Faith,
He leads. I follow.*

