



# Foundation Day

October 24, 2019  
Prayer & Commitment Service

**We gather today**, Sisters, Associates and staff to reflect on our SSND heritage and re-commit ourselves to living a life of unity and communion with the Triune God and one another.

**In the name of God**, our creator and the source of our being, and of the Son, incarnating us into the body of Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, the divine energy within us.

**Song - Come and Find the Quiet Center**  
*Located on YouTube: (Refrain only)*

*Lyrics by: Shirley Erena Murray*  
*Music by: Zack Stachowski*

Come and find the quiet center  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes that we can see  
All the things that really matter,  
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,  
cools the heat and slows the pace.  
God it is who speaks and names us,  
knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking,  
lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming,  
there is always room to spare!

## **First Reading:**

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

## **Reflection:**

Are you being called to let go of something(s) that separate your heart from that oneness of all with God and all of creation? What image, symbol, word will be an anchor for you in continuing to live this vision of Theresa?

## **Commitment:**

Together we re-commit ourselves to unite in our common effort toward unity in a diverse world, promoting a culture of tolerance, nonviolence and peace.

## **Second Reading:**

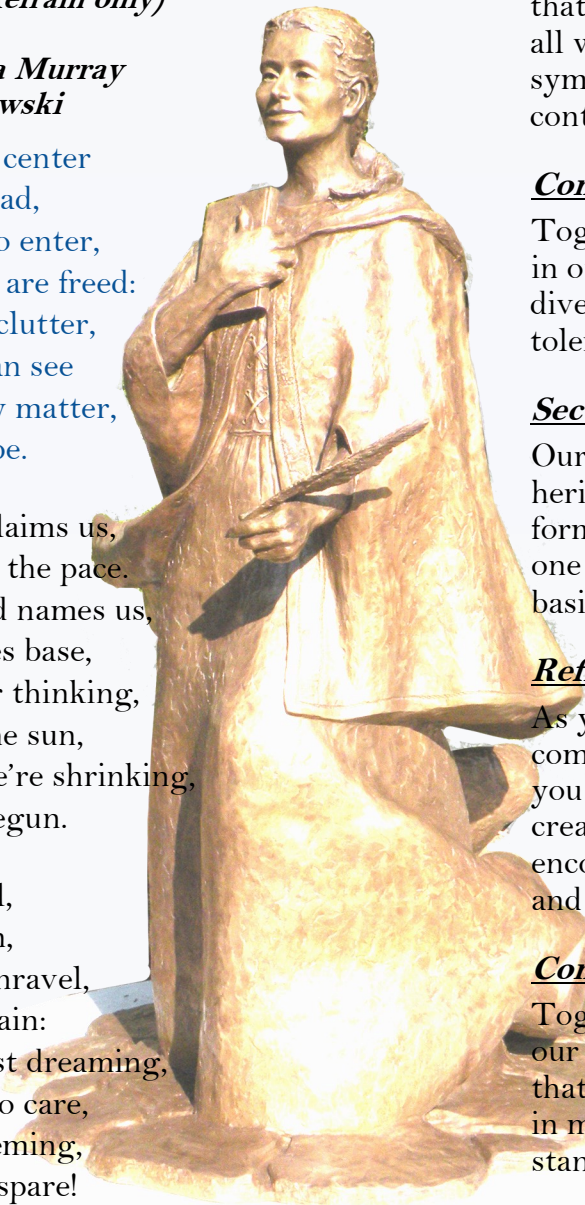
Our charism flows from our spiritual heritage and the gift of St. Augustine, who formed a community to be of one heart and one soul in God, seeing in the Trinity the basis, source and goal of all community.

## **Reflection:**

As you live each day in your local and world community, what nurtures communion within you and connects you to others and all of creation? What image, symbol, word will encourage you to continue to live community and communion in mission more fully?

## **Commitment:**

Together we re-commit ourselves to unite in our common effort to strengthen relationships that encourage communities and communion in mission, to foster an environment of understanding, compassion and love.



### **Third Reading:**

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.

### **Reflection:**

Call to mind those people who have enriched your life within the SSND community both in the past and present. Offer praise and thanksgiving for past challenges and blessings. Ask for trust and hope as we continue the journey together bringing “Love Gives Everything” to fruition.

### **Commitment:**

We commit ourselves to our common search for and doing of God’s will: by deepening communion with God and among people wherever we are, (YAS C9) by claiming our authentic community life as a prophetic witness of unity in diversity and service to God’s people, (24th GC, DS) by allowing the Triune God to impel us into the heart of the world to be women of peace, hope and love. (24th GC, DS)



### ***Closing Prayer***

#### ***Mother Theresa: Her Blessing***

*Maura Eichner, SSND*

*May the God of peace be with you —  
calms the heart that hammers fear.  
Her prayer for us. The hope she knew.*

*She is our prophet of fidelity, true  
to the triune single voice: now, here.*

*May the peace of God be with you.*

*She spoke rarely of the Thabor-glory view.  
Her creed was everyday. The Lord is near.  
Vision for us. A love she knew.*

*She lives in her letters: light breaks through  
the script: be one in heart. May dear ones, hear:*

*May the God of peace be with you.*

*Breaking bread to share, she, too,  
learned the miracle of loaves, her clear  
testament to us. The faith she knew.*

*Mother Theresa, serenely magnetized to  
the will of God, still speak your dear  
words: *The God of peace be with you.*  
Your prayer for us. The love you knew.*

*The Ministry Services Department gratefully acknowledges the  
Ongoing Personal Development in Community Committee for developing the 2019 Foundation Day prayer.*