

# Foundation Day



October 24, 2017



**Leader:** Today we pause to remember the strength of our SSND ancestors.

**All:** In a spirit of gratitude we call on their spirits for strength and courage to respond to urgent needs of our time.

**Leader:** We call upon the spirit of Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, a woman of faith, ever seeking God's will.

**All:** We remember how she struggled for unity in our international community and responded to urgent needs.

**Leader:** We call upon and remember Mother Caroline Friess who courageously left her homeland to serve God's people on another continent.

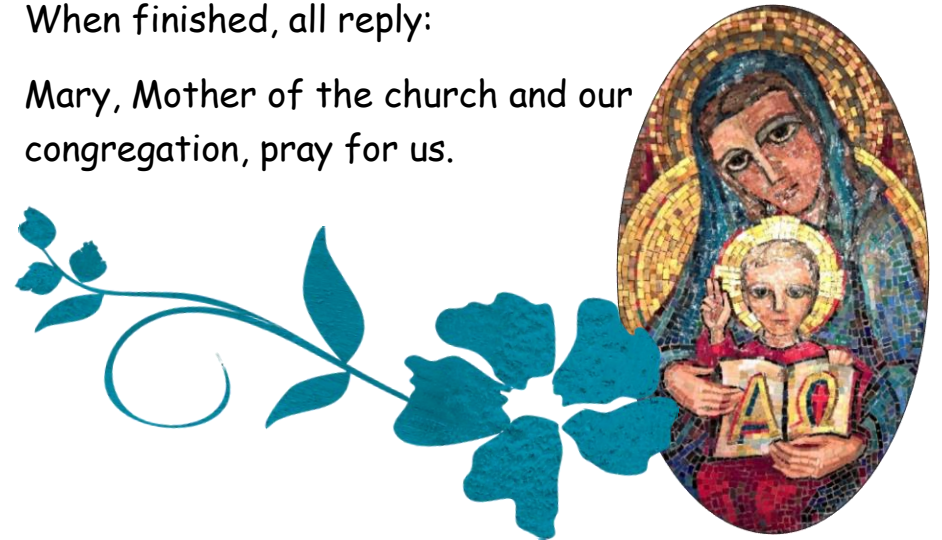
**All:** We are inspired by her openness to minister to students with diverse educational needs, socio-economic backgrounds, and ethnicity.

**Leader:** We call upon and remember other SSND ancestors who in creative fidelity carried out God's mission wherever they were sent.

**All:** (Silently or aloud name ancestors you would like to remember)

When finished, all reply:

Mary, Mother of the church and our congregation, pray for us.



## **Psalm 27 (Nan Merrill)**

Unless you, O Divine Builder, build the house,  
those who build it labor in vain. Unless you watch  
over the city, the watchers stay awake in vain.

For it is in cooperating with you from morn to  
evening, eating the bread of life and grace, that  
we rest in security.

Reverence the sacred gift of life that nourishes  
us. Who will grow in wisdom abandoning  
themselves to the chalice of love?

Who will open themselves to the imprint of love's  
gifts upon their hearts? Unless you, O Divine  
Spirit, make your home within us, we wander  
through life in vain.

Glory to you, Source of All Being, Eternal Word  
and Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now  
and will be forever. Amen

## **A reading from Blessed Theresa's letter 268**

*My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in  
God my Savior. Through God's almighty power  
and mercy, we, in our poverty, have been given a  
building, where our members will be able to grow*

in holiness and perfection as true religious. From  
this place we will be able to spread out over the  
entire land, in order to collaborate in the  
education of the young women in our country.  
Theresa's words.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

Reflection and sharing: What do Theresa's words  
mean to you?

## **Petitions**

Please mention any special petitions you may  
have.

## **Closing Prayer**

O gracious God, give us Blessed Theresa's spirit  
of deep trust in God. Fill us with courage to do  
God's work with love and generosity. We make  
this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

