



Foundation Day, 2018

Reader: The congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame came to life when God's call found an answer in the hearts of people strong in faith, farseeing in vision, and courageous in action. The congregation continues today in the mysterious interaction of divine call and human response. (YAS Prologue)

Song: "God's Cause"

Leader: As we celebrate the 185th anniversary of our founding, we pray in gratitude for Blessed Theresa and all who have sought to perpetuate this vision through the years and into the future. May our new Directional Statement be the impetus that propels us into the future.

Let us begin by remembering our spiritual heritage.

We call upon the spirit of Augustine:

May he gift us with a passion to know the Triune God and form communities of one mind and heart.

We call upon the spirit of Alix Le Clerc:

May she gift us with imagination to envision viable communities in mission.

We call upon the spirit of Peter Fourier:

May he gift us with a sense of urgency for holistic on-going formation for ourselves and all persons we serve.

We call upon the spirit of Mother Caroline:

May she gift us with creativity and courage to face an unfolding, uncertain future.

We call upon the spirit of Blessed Theresa:

May she fill us with her passion for unity in the international congregation and wholeness of the person.

We call upon the spirit of all faith-filled SSNDs who have gone before us:

May they intercede for us to our Triune God.

We call upon all the members of our living community including our lay collaborators:

May we wholeheartedly embrace the challenges of our new Directional Statement, *Love Gives Everything*.

Reflection: As you recall our spiritual ancestors, is there a prayer you would like to make specifically recalling one ancestor? Please share with those present.



Leader: Let us now pray the litany of Blessed Theresa adapted to include *Love Gives Everything*.

Blessed Woman of Poverty:

Help us embrace Gospel poverty, probe its deeper meaning, and risk opening ourselves to be transformed.

Blessed Woman of Prayer:

Help us deepen our consciousness of who we are in relationship with the Triune God, one another and God's amazing universe, particularly through reflection on the Trinity.

Blessed Woman of Vitality:

Foster in us a deep desire to claim our authentic community life as a prophetic witness of unity in diversity and a service to God's people.

Blessed Resourceful Pioneer Woman:

Inspire us to develop a world vision as we expand our understanding of interculturality and commit to develop skills for intercultural living in community and society.

Blessed Woman of Apostolic Zeal:

Fill us with ardor as we commit to risk innovative responses as educators in a rapidly changing world impacted by globalization and technology.

Blessed Woman of Vision:

Inspire us with vision as we seek to educate, advocate and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation.

Woman of Courage:

Pray for us as we discern as a congregation which urgent and critical global concerns we are called to address and we dare to respond boldly in unsuspected ways.

Closing Prayer:

Good and gracious God, we have known your faithfulness and grace these past 185 years. We give you thanks and praise for our origins, the roots of our life and mission together. Continue to touch our hearts with the gift of the Spirit that filled Blessed Theresa's heart and flowed through the women and men in our spiritual heritage. May it continue to evolve in us, the living community. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

