

# Foundation Day Prayer

## October 24, 2020

### Introduction

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).

### Opening Prayer

Loving God, on this day we turn to you in gratitude for the 187 hallowed years of the Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. We gather today, Sisters, Associates, and Colleagues, to reflect on our SSND heritage and re-commit ourselves to live a life of unity and communion in the Triune God and with one another. May the spirit of Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger live in us today as we celebrate our Foundation Day and seek to respond to God's call to us in our world today.

### Reading

The Gospel mission of the School Sisters of Notre Dame emerges from God's grace and Blessed Theresa's call that she and her sisters give their entire lives to reveal the oneness of all in Christ by their very beings. For each of us in this moment of history the words of Christ ring true: "As you sent me into the world, I have sent

them into the world...May they be one in us...so that the world may believe it was you who sent me (Jn. 17: 18, 21)." It follows that the mission of the Congregation "is to proclaim the Good News as School Sisters of Notre Dame, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent. As he was sent to show the Father's love to the world, we are sent to make Christ visible by our very being, by sharing our love, faith, and hope (YAS, C4).



The Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame was founded to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and it draws its strength from the faith and passion of Blessed Theresa. As followers of Christ, the members share the Good News of the transformation they experience through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and they invite all to live the Good News with courage and audacity. With Theresa, the members embrace "the mission of the Church to bring God's wholeness, reconciliation and unity to our fragile and resilient world at every level: global, national, and in the smallest settings of everyday life."<sup>1</sup>

### Meditation

*God Sends Us Forth* by Tony Alonso

### Faith Sharing

What seems to be God's mission for us today?

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *Each One's Journey*, Atlantic-MidwestProvince, 2019.

## Prayers of the Community

### V. Blessed Theresa of Jesus

R. *We bring to prayer on this Foundation Day the concerns of our community and the pressing needs of our world today and ask for your intercession.*

### V. St. Augustine

R. *Help us to see with humble eyes your desire for oneness in the world, knowing that is a lifelong task of building bridges and sowing seeds of peace.*



All the works of God proceed slowly and in pain; but then, their roots are sturdier and their flowering the lovelier (2277).  
—Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger

### V. Blessed Alix Le Clerc

R. *Help us to be faithful to the SSND mission “to proclaim the good news as School Sisters of Notre Dame”, despite uncertainty and challenges posed by this time in our history.*

### V. St. Peter Fourier

R. *Help us reach beyond our own comforts to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable members of society.*

### V. Bishop Michael Wittman

R. *Help us to embrace a singular focus in our ministry of education and in our efforts to be of one mind and one heart.*

### V. Reverend Francis Sebastian Job

R. *Help us to be mindful of our thoughts and actions to live with a communal mindset and work for the common good.*

### V. Mother Caroline Friess

R. *Help us rekindle a spirit of dialogue in our community, that we see the common threads of humanity in all cultures and nations.*

### V. All Members of the Living Community

R. *Help us to remember the sacredness of creation and live out the call of integral ecology found in “Laudato Si”.*

### V. All You Blessed Sisters, Associates, and Colleagues who have gone before us

R. *Help us to work collaboratively for “communion in mission,” that as Sisters, Associates, and Colleagues, we remember that we share in this invitation to participate in God’ work.*

## Closing Prayer

Loving God, with hope and confidence in Your continued providence, we stand ready to respond to Your call today. We ask for the grace to proclaim the Good News by our very lives with the conviction that the world can be transformed by education. This we pray in Jesus’ name through the power of Your Spirit. Amen.

*The Department of Ministry Services thanks Members of the OPDIC Committee for their collaboration in designing the 2020 Foundation Day Prayer.*