



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Atlantic-Midwest Province

Foundation Day Prayer

October 24, 2023

190 Years:

Rooted in Love, Faith, and Hope!

Today we gather to celebrate the 190th anniversary of the SSND founding. With gratitude and joy, we expand our hearts to hold the span of time and embrace all of our international provinces. We give thanks for the fruitfulness of our communal life, the graces experienced in prayer, the call to join God in mission and the transformation of the world through our ministry. We are grateful for those joining us today in different ways to advance God’s mission and the SSND charism into the future.

We pause to behold in divine embrace all our Sisters, Associates, colleagues and friends as we yearn together to unite a fractured world and to bring healing to wounded Earth and its creatures on this milestone Foundation Day.

Let us pray -

SONG: (Click the link below to listen)

[Somewhere to Begin](#) © T.R. Ritchie, Whitebark Music/BMI; recorded by [Sara Thomsen](#) [4.38 min]

People say to me, “Oh, you gotta be crazy!
How can you sing in times like these?
Don’t you read the news? Don’t you know the score?
How can you sing when so many others grieve?”
People say to me, “What kind of fool believes
That a song will make a difference in the end?”

By way of a reply, I say a fool such as I
Who sees a song as somewhere to begin
A song is somewhere to begin
The search for something worth believing in
If changes are to come there are things that
must be done
And a song is somewhere to begin.
Additional verses: 2) Dream... 3) Love...

READINGS:

In the 150th Year: We Re-Crete Mother Theresa of Jesus

from: The Flowering of the Works of God



In her crypt:

a handful of dust
a cupful of bone –

but we
are aware, each day,
of someone



calling us.
it is herself
we discover
a woman
who makes us one
even as we



make her
our own.



CONTEMPLATIVE PAUSE – Instrumental Music (Optional): [Click here to play](#) [3 min.]



REFLECTION QUESTIONS (sharing optional):

How are you discovering Blessed Theresa calling you and the community today?

How would you describe your relationship with her on the 190th year of the SSND founding?

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

Prayer Leader: That we may live lives of gratitude for the rich heritage of our founders, we pray

Response: May Bl. Theresa, woman of Love, accompany us on this transformative journey, ever seeking to know and do Love’s will.

Prayer Leader: That our 25th General Chapter will be open to the Spirit of transformation impelling us into an unknown future, we pray

Response: Triune God, Source of Love, open and widen our hearts and shape us into a new creation of Your love.

Prayer Leader: That the United Nations will find the grace and courage to live up to its commitment to a just and peaceful world, we pray

Response: Word of Love, teach us how to love and be the healing presence needed in our world today.

Prayer Leader: That the lives of SSNDs, our Associates, Staff and Partners in Mission will witness in prayer and action that we are a *Laudato Si’* Community, we pray

Response: Spirit of Love, free us to let go, risk and become prophetic witnesses of universal communion.

Prayer Leader: That the Synod on Synodality will truly hear and respond to the voice of the universal church, we pray

Response: God of Wisdom, may we be sensitive to the Spirit’s invitation to grow as a synodal Church in Communion, Mission and through Participation.

ALL: As a congregation Created by Love, Empowered by Love and Transformed by Love*, we raise these and all the prayers of our hearts to our Triune God. Amen.

CLOSING BLESSING: *Mother Theresa: Her Blessing,* from: *The Flowering of the Works of God*

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. My 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.

**Graced by Love – 2023 Jubilee Letter by S. Roxanne Shares, SSND, General Superior*



The Department of Ministry Services thanks Sister Patricia Murphy, SSND, for her collaboration in designing the 2023 Foundation Day Prayer; graphic design by Laura Stafford