

## Liturgy for Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, May 9<sup>th</sup>

*(Probatum et confirmatum Sacra Congregatio pro Culta Divino Prot. 1381/85, October 20, 1985)*

Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, Virgin and Foundress - Feast

Mary Theresa of Jesus (Caroline) Gerhardinger was born June 20, 1797, in Regensburg-Stadtamhof, West Germany. Her spiritual advisor, Bishop G. M. Wittman, fostered her extraordinary love for prayer and for the poor. Already at the age of 12, she became a teacher to counteract the lack of faith and of Christian formation of youth, which the period of Enlightenment and the Napoleonic wars had brought to her homeland. For the same purpose, in 1833, she founded the School Sisters of Notre Dame, which soon became an international congregation. As an educator with a world vision, Mother Theresa established Christian educational centers, especially for the common people, whose aim was the full development of young people so that a more wholesome family life might flourish and a faith-filled generation come to maturity. In all her sufferings, as well as in all her successes, Mary Theresa of Jesus remained a faithful servant of the Lord. Until her death on May 9, 1879, in Munich she knew only one goal: the honor of God and the enablement of people.

### EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

Entrance Antiphon

Mark 10:14

Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Gloria

Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, you chose Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus, virgin, as gifted educator to contribute to shaping Christian life in family and society. Through her intercession enable us to proclaim the good news of salvation and to work together for the coming of your kingdom of love in its fullness. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

Reading 1

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, "Your God is

king!" Listen! Your watchers raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see Yahweh face to face, as God returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for Yahweh is consoling the people, redeeming Jerusalem. Yahweh bares a holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 57:8-12

Response: I will thank you Lord, among the peoples.

1. My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready. I will sing, I will sing your praise. Awake, my soul, awake lyre and harp, I will awake the dawn.

Response: I will thank you Lord, among the peoples.

2. I will thank you, Lord, among the peoples, praise you among the nations; for your love reaches to the heavens and your truth to the skies. May your glory shine on earth!

Alleluia

Matthew 5:8

Alleluia. Happy the pure in heart; they shall see God. Alleluia

Gospel

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he put his arms around them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

Prayer over the Gifts

Common for Teachers

Lord, accept the gifts your people bring in memory of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus. May our sharing in this mystery help us to live the example of love you give us. Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Preface

Virgins and Religious

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks. Today we honor your saints who consecrated their lives to Christ for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. What love you show us as you recall humankind to its innocence, and invite us to taste on earth the gifts of the world to come! Now with the saints and all the angels we praise you for ever:

Holy, Holy, Holy...

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 18:3

Unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Prayer after Communion

Common for Teachers

All-powerful God, may this holy meal help us to follow the example of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus by showing in our lives the light of truth and love for our brothers and sisters. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Office of Readings

Second Reading

From the spiritual testament of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

Be perfect," our Lord bids us, "as your heavenly Father is perfect." In my opinion, our perfection lies in the love of God. As far as we possess the love of God, so far are we perfect religious before God. Therefore, in all things, may God be our goal and end, our highest good, in whom we find all that makes us content and truly happy. To him we want to bring daily, yes, hourly and before every single action, our innermost thoughts and to honor him with every word. Let us never tolerate in our hearts anything that is not God's. Let us give God our whole heart; it does belong to him. Him let us love above all, and our companion sisters, our fellow-beings as ourselves. The Holy Spirit has brought us together, and Jesus Christ has knotted the close bond among us, as sisters accepted us in his service.

But why do we subject ourselves to religious obedience and no longer let our self-will have its way? Why do we renounce poverty and the attachment to earthly goods and live in voluntary poverty? Why do we remain celibate and keep away from the hustle and bustle of the world? Why should we seek unceasingly to become holy? So that we may be freer from life's cares and better able to meet the children as their spiritual mothers and in them give service to our Savior. When from our schools and boarding homes many capable Christian young women begin their own families, we will be doing our part that God be glorified, honored, loved and thus his reign be extended as we pray daily. To this we shall give our all, as the Lord himself did untiringly to the

end of his life, as he walked on earth among us, and after him his apostles, who suffered poverty, hunger, nakedness, persecution, scourging, fetters, prison and martyrdom to lead people to God.

#### Responsorial

R. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord;

\*remember that in the Lord your efforts are never in vain.

V. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer

\* remember that in the Lord your efforts are never in vain (Rom. 12:11-12)