Novena

to prepare for the liturgical remembrance
of Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik,
foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago
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September 11: Trusting in God’s Providence

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ!
ALL: Now and forever. Amen!
Leader: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. \(\text{(Rom 15:13)}\)
ALL: Blessed be God forever!

Reader: Venerable Mother Theresa wrote: “I realized that it is safest to put all hope in God alone; in all difficulties, I went to Him for help.”

Leader: Only in God is my soul at rest; from him comes my salvation.
ALL: Only in God be at rest, my soul, for from him comes my hope. \(\text{(Ps 62:2,6)}\)

Reader: Pope Benedict XVI told us: “In prayer we must be able to bring before God our fatigue, the suffering of certain situations and of certain days, our daily struggle to follow him and to be Christians, and even the weight of evil we see within us and around us, because he gives us hope, makes us aware of his nearness and gives us a little light on the path of life.” \(\text{(February 1, 2012)}\)

Leader: You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shade of the Almighty,
ALL: Say to the Lord, “My refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust.” \(\text{(Ps 91:1-2)}\)

Reader: St. Paul says: “Indeed, we had accepted within ourselves the sentence of death that we might trust not in ourselves but in God who raises the dead. He rescued us from such great danger of death, and he will continue to rescue us; in him we have put our hope [that] he will also rescue us again.” \(\text{(2 Cor 1:9-10)}\)
Leader: Lord, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, My God, my rock of refuge, my shield, my saving horn, my stronghold! (Ps 17, 3.31)

ALL: God’s way is unerring; the Lord’s promise is refined; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him. (Ps 18:30)

Reader: The Lord Jesus proclaims: “If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? ... Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.” (Mt 7:30,33)

Leader: In you, Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me.

ALL: I trust in you, Lord; I say, “You are my God.” (Ps 31:1,15)

Leader: And so, we pray together for the gift of deeper trust in God’s Providence in the spirit of our Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik:

ALL: Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of your presence, your love, and your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to you, we shall see your hand, your purpose, your will through all things. We ask this of you who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen. (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Leader: May almighty God – Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit – bless us with trust in his Providence

ALL: Through the prayers, example, and legacy of Mother Mary Theresa. Amen.
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**September 12: Surrendering to God’s Will**

**Leader:** Praised be Jesus Christ!

**ALL:** Now and for ever. Amen!

**Leader:** May the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do his will.                              (Heb 13:20-21)

**ALL:** Blessed be God for ever!

**Reader:** Venerable Mother Theresa wrote: “I was overcome with a kind of misgiving, thinking that it would not be an easy task to teach myself and others as well to be good religious. ... I submitted to God’s will with this thought: I would allow Him to do with me as He pleased.”

**Leader:** See; I come with an inscribed scroll written upon me.

**ALL:** I delight to do your will, my God; your law is in my inner being! (Ps 40:8-9)

**Reader:** Pope Benedict XVI told us: “If you follow the will of God, you know that in spite of all the terrible things that happen to you, you will never lose a final refuge. You know that the foundation of the world is love, so that even when no human being can or will help you, you may go on, trusting in the One that loves you.”

**Leader:** I will never forget your precepts; through them you give me life.

**ALL:** I am yours; save me, for I cherish your precepts. (Ps 119:93-94)
Reader: St. Paul says: “Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”

(Rom 12:2)

Leader: I observe your testimonies; I love them very much.

ALL: I observe your precepts and testimonies; all my ways are before you.

(Ps 119:167-168)

Reader: The Lord Jesus replied: “Who are my mother and my brothers?” And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

(Mk 3:33-35)

Leader: I will never forget your precepts; through them you give me life.

ALL: I am yours; save me, for I cherish your precepts.

(Ps 119:93-94)

Leader: And so, we pray together for the grace of complete surrender to the will of God in the spirit of our Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik:

ALL: Lord, you know what is best; let this be done or that be done as you please. Give what you will, as much as you will, when you will. Do with me as you know best, as will most please you, and will be for your greater honor. Place me where you will and deal with me freely in all things. I am in your hand; turn me about whichever way you will. Behold, I am your servant, ready to obey in all things. Not for myself do I desire to live, but for you – would that I could do this worthily and perfectly! Amen.

(Thomas Kempis)

Leader: May almighty God – Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit – bless us with complete surrender to his will.

ALL: Through the prayers, example, and legacy of Mother Mary Theresa. Amen.
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September 13: Centering Life on Jesus Christ

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ!
ALL: Now and for ever. Amen!
Leader: May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, and may charity be the root and foundation of your life, so that you will be able to grasp fully, with all the holy ones, the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ’s love. (Eph 3:17-19)
ALL: Blessed be God for ever!

Reader: Venerable Mother Theresa wrote: “I felt like a fish out of water without Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. ... The longing for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament returned again and again. ... At times I felt such great yearning for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament that I was ready to run to church at any time, even late in the evening.”

Leader: O God, you are my God—it is you I seek!
ALL: I look to you in the sanctuary to see your power and glory. (Ps 63:2,3)

Reader: Pope Benedict XVI told us: “Man bears within him a thirst for the infinite, a longing for eternity, a quest for beauty, a desire for love, a need for light and for truth which impel him towards the Absolute; man bears within him the desire for God. Let us learn to recognize his voice that calls us and leads us back to the depths of our existence, to the source of life, to the source of salvation, to God’s dimension, which is Infinite Love.” (May 11, 2011)

Leader: The eyes of all look hopefully to you; you give them their food in due season.
ALL: You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps 145:15-16)

Reader: The First Letter of St. John proclaims: “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life, for the Life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us.” (1 Jn 1:1-2)

Leader: As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God.
ALL: My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When can I enter and see the face of God? (Ps 42:2-3)
Reader: The Lord Jesus said: “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

(Jn 10:10,6:35)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his mercy endures forever!

ALL: For he satisfied the thirsty, filled the hungry with good things.

(Ps 107:1,9)

Leader: And so, we pray together for the grace of gazing upon Christ, considering him, and contemplating him, so as to imitate him in the spirit of our Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik:

ALL: Great are you, O Lord, and exceedingly worthy of praise; your power is immense, and your wisdom beyond reckoning. We who are a fitting part of your creation long to praise you. You so move us that praising you may bring us joy, because you have made us and drawn us to yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you. Our heart is listening, Lord; open the ears of our heart and say to our soul, “I am your salvation.” Permit us to run towards this voice and seize hold of you. Do not hide your face from us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(St. Augustine of Hippo)

Leader: May almighty God – Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit – bless us with an intense awareness of Christ’s Real Presence in all aspects of our lives.

ALL: Through the prayers, example, and legacy of Mother Mary Theresa. Amen.
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September 14 (Triumph of the Holy Cross): Sacrificing Oneself for Others

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ!
ALL: Now and for ever. Amen!
Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God.
ALL: Blessed be God for ever!

Reader: Venerable Mother Theresa wrote: “Very often, I felt drawn to greater sacrifice for others. Consequently, I was constantly occupied with the thought of how I could be of service to the needy and the poor. … I would consider it even great happiness to be able to suffer for the greater glory of God and the good of this community. … This act required much self-denial.”

Leader: I will offer a sacrifice of praise and call on the name of the Lord.
ALL: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Reader: Pope Francis stated: “Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and glory, chose to be poor; he came among us and drew near to each of us; he set aside his glory and emptied himself so that he could be like us in all things. God’s becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved.”

Leader: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, such wondrous deeds for the children of Adam.
ALL: Let them offer a sacrifice in thanksgiving, recount his works with shouts of joy.

Reader: St. Paul writes: “As Christ’s sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow. If we are afflicted, it is for your encouragement and salvation; if we are encouraged, it is for your encouragement, which enables you to endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am
filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the Church.”

(2 Cor 1:5-6; Col 1:24)

Leader: You do not desire sacrifice or I would give it; a burnt offering you would not accept.

ALL: My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a contrite, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.

(Pr 51:18-19)

Reader: Jesus said to all, “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit oneself?”

(Lk 9:23-25)

Leader: Sacrifice and offering you do not want; you opened my ears.

ALL: Holocaust and sin-offering you do not request; so I said, “See; I come!”

(Ps 40:7-8)

Leader: And so, we pray together for the grace of offering ourselves for God and others, as Christ himself did, so as to imitate him in the spirit of our Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik:

ALL: Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace that is enough for me.

(St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Leader: May almighty God – Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit – bless us with the ability to take up the cross for others and follow Jesus.

ALL: Through the prayers, example, and legacy of Mother Mary Theresa. Amen.

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September 15 (The Sorrowful Mother): Modeling Mary’s Compassion

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ! ALL: Now and for ever. Amen!
Leader: May you owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. May you be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. (Rom 13:8, Eph 4:32)
ALL: Blessed be God for ever!
Reader: Venerable Mother Theresa wrote: “The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin was approaching. It was the anniversary of the founding of our Community. ... Truthfully, we were delighted at the thought of beginning our postulancy; and I was so overwhelmed by it that I wished to honor my favorite feast of the Mother of God more solemnly. I began to plan for the celebrations of this feast and also for the approaching Christmas festivities.”

Leader: They devoted themselves to prayer, together with Mary the mother of Jesus. (cf. Acts 1:14)
ALL: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, (Col 3:12)
Reader: Pope Francis stated: “St. Luke says that, with Jesus in her womb, Mary rose and promptly went to help her kinswoman Elizabeth, who in her old age was about to become a mother. She fulfilled God's will, making herself available to anyone in need. She did not think of herself, but instead overcame setbacks and gave herself to others. If we imitate Mary, we cannot do so while sitting down, merely complaining, or even at times passing the buck to others rather than facing our own responsibilities. (September 08, 2014)
Leader: During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.
ALL: When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the Infant leaped in her womb. (Lk 1:39-4)
Reader: In his Letter St. James writes: “What good is it if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,’ but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?” (Jas 2:14-16)
Leader: Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
ALL: Even should she forget, I will never forget you. (Ps 79:15)
Reader: When the wine ran short [at Cana in Galilee], the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.” (Jn 2:3-5)
Leader: Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
ALL: Whatever you did for one of these least brothers [or sisters] of mine, you did for me. (Mt 25:40)
Leader: And so, we pray together for the strength to be agents of compassion and concern in the spirit of our Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik:
ALL: O Holy Virgin, in the midst of all your glory, we ask you not to forget the sorrows of this world. Cast a look of pity upon all who struggle against life’s difficulties, and who cease not to feel all its bitterness. Have pity on all who have been separated from those they love. Have pity on the lonely and friendless. Pardon the weakness of our faith. Have pity on those whom we love. O Holy Mother, show a mother's compassion toward the sorrowful and those who tremble under life’s afflictions. Give them hope and peace. Amen.
Leader: May almighty God – Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit – bless us with the grace of compassion.
ALL: Through the prayers, example, and legacy of Mother Mary Theresa. Amen.

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**September 16: Bringing about Peace**

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ!

**ALL:** Now and for ever. Amen!

Leader: May God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ grant you peace and love and faith. May he who is the Lord of peace give you continued peace in every possible way.

**ALL:** Blessed be God for ever!

Reader: Venerable Mother Theresa wrote: When it was necessary to sacrifice myself in order to bring about peace, I did not hesitate; I trusted in God, and he came to my aid. ... It seemed to me that, with the help of God, I would be equal to any task with which I was confronted. ... It is always so: God allows sadness in our lives, but He also consoles us. ... I could not contain my joy.

Leader: Observe the person of integrity and mark the upright because there is a future for a person of peace.

**ALL:** Lovers of your law have much peace; for them there is no stumbling block. (Ps 119:165)

Reader: Pope St. John XXIII stated: “May [the Prince of Peace] enlighten the rulers of peoples so that in addition to their solicitude for the proper welfare of their citizens, they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace; may He enkindle the wills of all, so that they may overcome the barriers that divide, cherish the bonds of mutual charity, understand others, and pardon those who have done them wrong; by virtue of his action, may all peoples of the earth become as brothers, and may the most longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always among them.”

(April 11, 1963)

Leader: “May peace be within your ramparts, prosperity within your towers.”

**ALL:** For the sake of my brothers and friends I say, “Peace be with you.” (Ps 122:7-8)

Reader: In his Letter St. James writes: “Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show his works by a good life in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. Wisdom of this kind does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and
good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.”

Leader: May the Lord give might to his people; may the Lord bless his people with peace!

ALL: **Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.** (Ps 3:13-18)

Reader: Jesus said to the crowds: “Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

Leader: Love and truth will meet; justice and peace will kiss.

ALL: **Truth will spring from the earth; justice will look down from heaven.** (Ps 85:11-12)

Leader: And so, we pray together for the strength to bring about peace in the spirit of our Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik:

ALL: Loving Father, fortify me with the grace of your Holy Spirit and give your peace to my soul that I may be free from all needless anxiety, solicitude, and worry. Help me to desire always that which is pleasing and acceptable to you so that your will may be my will through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(St. Frances Xavier Cabrini)

Leader: May almighty God – Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit – bless us with peace.

ALL: Through the prayers, example, and legacy of Mother Mary Theresa. Amen.

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Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ!

ALL: Now and for ever. Amen!

Leader: May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the spirit of Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and voice you may glorify God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: Blessed be God for ever!

Reader: Venerable Mother Theresa wrote: “After much reflection, I promised God … that as long as I lived, I would try, as much as my strength allowed … to sustain this Community and persevere in it, to care for this community in times of difficulty as well as in times of prosperity.”

Leader: I will take you away from among the nations,

ALL: gather you from all the lands, and bring you back to your own soil.

Reader: Pope Francis wrote: “Fraternity is an essential human quality, for we are relational beings. A lively awareness of our relatedness helps us to look upon and to treat each person as a true sister or brother; without fraternity it is impossible to build a just society and a solid and lasting peace. We should remember that fraternity is generally first learned in the family, thanks above all to the responsible and complementary roles of each of its members, particularly the father and the mother. The family is the wellspring of all fraternity, and as such it is the foundation and the first pathway to peace, since, by its vocation, it is meant to spread its love to the world around it.”

Leader: I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.

ALL: I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Reader: St Paul writes: “Putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, for we are members one of another. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you,
along with all malice. Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.”  

(Eph 4:25,30-31)

Leader: I will put my spirit within you  
ALL: so that you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep them.  

(Ez 36:27)

Reader: After washing the feet of his disciples, Jesus said to them: “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. … As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”  

(Jn 13:12-15;15:9,12)

Leader: How good and how pleasant it is,  
ALL: when brothers and sisters dwell together as one!  

(Ps 113:1)

Leader: And so, we pray together for the grace to build community in the spirit of our Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik:  
ALL: Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your Son Jesus Christ, so that he may glorify you. We pray that we may all be one, as you, Father, are in Jesus Christ and as Christ is in you and as the Holy Spirit is with you both. We pray that we may all be one so that you and your Son and your Spirit also may be in us. We pray that we may be one so that we may be brought to perfect holiness as one. We pray that we may be one so that the world may know that you sent Christ. We pray that we may be one so that society may know how much you love us even as you loved him. All glory be yours now and for ever. Amen.  

(based on Jesus’ own High Priestly Prayer, Jn 17)

Leader: May almighty God – Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit – bless us with the great gift of oneness of life together as sisters,  
ALL: Through the prayers, example, and legacy of Mother Mary Theresa. Amen.
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September 18: Living in Perseverance and Not Losing Heart

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ!
ALL:  Now and for ever. Amen!

Leader: May God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, give you his gifts in accord with the riches of his glory and strengthen you inwardly with power through his Spirit in the inner self. (Eph 3:14-16)
ALL:  Blessed be God for ever!

Reader: Venerable Mother Theresa wrote: “I remembered the promise I had made freely: I resolved not to lose heart in adversity, but to labor all the more energetically for the survival of the congregation. … In spite of any adversity, I maintained my happy disposition since I saw the Will of God in all life’s events.”

Leader: My soul, be at rest in God alone, from whom comes my hope.
ALL:  God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not fall. (Ps 62:6-7)

Reader: Pope St. John Paul II said: “By means of your apostolate you offer to your brothers and sisters the Gospel of love. Wherever witness by word is difficult or impossible in a world which does not accept it, by your attitude you make Christ the servant present, because your actions are in harmony with the teaching of the One whom you proclaim. This is an eminent form of professing the faith, a form practiced with humility and perseverance by the saints.”
(12th World Youth Day)

Leader: I cry out to you, Lord; I say, ‘you are my refuge,’
ALL:  my portion in the land of the living. (Ps 142:6)

Reader: St Paul writes: “Put on the armor of God that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones.”
(Eph 6:13-18)
Leader: God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress.  
ALL: The Lord of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob.  
(Ps 46:2,8)

Reader: Jesus said to his disciples: “Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves. But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved.”  
(Mt 10:16-17,22)

Leader: You, Lord, are enthroned forever; your renown is for all generations  
ALL: but you are the same, your years have no end.  
(Ps 102:13,28)

Leader: And so, we pray together for the grace to persevere to the end in our faithful living of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the spirit of our Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik:  
ALL: All-powerful, most holy, Almighty and supreme God, holy and just Father, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.  
(St. Thomas Aquinas)

Leader: May almighty God – Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit – bless us with perseverance and fidelity.  
ALL: Through the prayers, example, and legacy of Mother Mary Theresa. Amen.

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**September 19: Thanking God for All Good Gifts**

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ!

ALL: **Now and for ever. Amen!**

Leader: May you rejoice always, never cease praying, and render constant thanks; for such is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (cf. 2 Thes 5:16-17)

ALL: **Blessed be God for ever!**

Reader: Venerable Mother Theresa wrote: “I wish that … we could thank Him for all the graces He has showered upon us”

Leader: Sing praise to the Lord, you faithful; give thanks to his holy memory. (Ps 30:5)

ALL: **We thank you, God, we give thanks; we call upon your name, we declare your wonderful deeds.** (Ps 75:1)

Reader: Pope Francis tweeted: “It is easy to ask God for things; we all do it. When will we also learn to give him thanks and to adore him? May we always say ‘thank you’ to God, especially for his patience and mercy.” (January 25 and January 14, 2014)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, invoke his name; make known among the peoples his deeds!

ALL: **Sing praise to him, play music; proclaim all his wondrous deeds!** (Ps 105:1-2)

Reader: St. Paul says: “Be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col 3:16-18)

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, you just,

ALL: **and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness** (Ps 97:12)

Reader: The holy Gospel proclaims: “As Jesus was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, Jesus, Master! Have pity on us! And when he saw them, he said, ‘Go show yourselves to the priests.’ As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him.” (Lk 17:12-15)

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, Most High,

ALL: **To proclaim your love at daybreak, your faithfulness in the night.** (Ps 92:2-3)
Leader: And so, we pray together to give thanks to God as we honor our Venerable
Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik:

ALL: All-powerful, most holy, Almighty and supreme God, holy and just Father,
Lord King of heaven and earth, we thank you for yourself for through your
holy will and through your only Son with the Holy Spirit you have created
everything spiritual and corporal; and, after making us in your own image
and likeness, you placed us in paradise though through our own fault we
fell.

Leader: We thank you for as through your Son you created us, so through your holy
love with which you loved us you brought about his birth as true God and
ture man by the glorious, ever-virgin, most blessed, holy Mary and you
willed to redeem us captives through his cross and blood and death.

ALL: We thank you for your Son Himself will come again in the glory of his
majesty to say to all those who have known you, adored you and served
you in penance: "Come, you blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom
prepared for you from the beginning of the world."

Leader: Because all of us are not worthy to pronounce your name, we humbly ask
our Lord Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, in whom you were well pleased,
together with the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, to give you thanks, for
everything as it pleases you and him, who always satisfies you in
everything, through whom you have done so much for us. Alleluia!

ALL: With our whole heart, our whole soul, our whole mind, with our whole
strength and fortitude with our whole understanding with all our powers
with every effort, every affection, every feeling, every desire and wish, let
us all love the Lord God Who has given and gives to each one of us our
whole body, our whole soul, and our whole life.

Leader: Therefore, let us desire nothing else, let us want nothing else, let nothing
else please us and cause us delight except our Creator, Redeemer and
Savior, the only true God, who is the fullness of good, all good. Let nothing
hinder us, nothing separate us, nothing come between us.

ALL: Wherever we are, in every place, at every hour, at every time of the day,
every day and continually, let all of us truly and humbly believe, hold in our
heart and love, honor, adore, serve, praise and bless, glorify and exalt,
magnify and give thanks to the Most High and Supreme Eternal God Trinity
and Unity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. (St. Francis of Assisi, 1221 Rule, Chapter 23)

Leader: May almighty God – Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit – bless us with the ability
to praise and thank him now and for ever

ALL: Through the prayers, example, and legacy of Mother Mary Theresa. Amen.