



## Blessed Maria Teresa of St. Joseph

Foundress of Carmel D.C.J.

1855-1938

Beatified on May 13, 2006

*"See God in all, serve God in all, love God in all!"* (AB 363)

## We have our own unique story! She is one of our own!

### Her connection with the Archdiocese of Toronto and St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Blessed Maria Teresa of St. Joseph is "One of our own" she lived in our Archdiocese and in North America from 1912-1920. She and her congregation were invited by the Archbishop of Toronto Neil McNeil in 1912 to come to Toronto to minister to the immigrant communities.

She herself opened their first house and orphanage in our Parish of St. Francis on Harrison Street. The house is still functioning and ministering to the local community. Blessed Maria Teresa in her autobiography speaks highly of the warm welcome and assistance she received by the local community. She lived in and visited Toronto Canada and the USA from 1912 to 1920.

*This is what she wrote about her Toronto experience:*

*Here my dear Italians showed themselves to be generous benefactors. They had not only supplied us with the necessary food, but also collected money and brought it to us after work. They helped us most faithfully through all these years, and we, on our part, have done all we could to get them to observe their religious duties. Since May 1913, their orphan children have always found a home in the Carmel of the Divine Heart.*

*In Toronto we found benefactors of all nationalities faster than in any other foundation. They vied with one another to make a real home here for the poorest of all children.*

Presently the Carmelites Sisters DCJ have houses in Mississauga, St. Catharine's Ontario, and Medicine Hat, Alberta.

### Family Background

Mother Maria Teresa of St. Joseph -- Anna Maria Tauscher -- was born on June 19, 1855 in Sandow, Germany, which is now in Poland. She came from a deeply religious Protestant pastor's family.

### Becoming Catholic and the founding of the Congregation

God guided this richly talented and capable woman on steep and stony roads to the Catholic faith. On October 30, 1888 she was received into the Catholic Church. From then on she herself became poor for the sake of the poor, homeless for the sake of the homeless. She placed her life in the service of God. In order to realize this goal, she founded a religious Congregation, the Carmel of the Divine Heart of Jesus on July 2, 1891.

### The Spirit of prayer and apostolic life

Mother Maria Teresa took the Carmelite spirit of prayer and coupled it with apostolic service. Her concern was aimed especially at poor and neglected children, above all those who had no home. Her loving dedication was further directed to families and individuals who had left the Church, to the lonely, the aged, to immigrants and transient workers--simply all who were homeless in any way. So it was that contemplative prayer coupled with active charity became the distinguishing mark of the Carmel of the Divine Heart of Jesus.

### Death and Process of Beatification

After a long life of dedicated service, Mother Maria Teresa died at the age of 83 on September 20, 1938 at the Mother House of the Carmel DCJ. in Sittard, Holland. Bishop W. Lemmens opened her beatification process in Sittard on February 2, 1953. On December 20, 2002 Pope John Paul the Second declared Mother Mary Teresa of St. Joseph venerable. On May 13<sup>th</sup> 2006, Mother Was beatified in Roermond, Netherlands.

Before her death she wrote: *"To be able to dry tears, to heal wounds of souls from the heights of heaven, this is my ardent wish."*