

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE DEATH OF VENERABLE MOTHER MARY THERESA DUDZIK

ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1918



July 2018

A READING FROM THE *CHRONICLE* OF VENERABLE MOTHER THERESA DUDZIK



This India ink sketch by artist Walter Krawiec shows Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik sewing custom garments for wealthy Northshore Chicago clients. A talented seamstress, Mother Theresa used the funds acquired by her talent to fund her ministries of compassion.

“All of a sudden Sister Josepha began failing in health, and I was obliged to send her to a doctor. This resulted in weekly visits and medication for her until October. I was the only one left who could stand the heaviest work; because the lady whom I hired also complained that it was too hard for her to run the washing machines. Fearing that she, too, might become sick, I tried to relieve her as often as I could. And the Lord was helping me.

Sister Josepha was hospitalized in the early part of October, leaving me with Sister Angelina who was engaged in sewing at home. My mother did the cooking for us, and I hired one more woman to help me with the washing and ironing. Thus we continued working to attain the goal for which we had banded together.

After three weeks of hospitalization, Sister Josepha returned home; but she was unable to do any servile work. Within two weeks she was obliged to go back to the hospital to undergo surgery. The operation was successful, but she had to remain at the hospital for three additional weeks. When she returned, she was very weak and felt worse than ever before.”

*Chronicle*, pp. 35-36

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✦ Whom did I notice at work or in the community today doing the right thing -- actively carrying out our mission, our goal?
- ✦ Do I pay attention to the positive things around me?

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR THE MONTH

It seems easier for us human beings to notice faults, problems, and failures rather than the good. As I go through the day I will try to remember at least three people whom I saw engaged in positive, life-giving actions. I can remind myself to do this by placing a stickie note on the dashboard, kitchen sink backsplash, or in my wallet with my public transportation pass.

## VENERABLE MOTHER THERESA DUDZIK'S QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

### A NOTE ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik (1860-1918) was a Polish immigrant who deeply felt the misery and suffering of others. She began her ministries to the poor and needy in Chicago, taking them into her own apartment. When there was not enough room to house them all, she established the first home for the aged in the city. And to guarantee that the needy would never be abandoned, she founded a religious congregation, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago, to continue her ministries.

In this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death on September 20, 1918, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago invite all to share in the spiritual treasures found in her hand-written journal, the *Chronicle*.

This guide represents #11 in a series of 13. The entire series of guides can be found on the Sisters' website, <http://www.chicagofranciscans.org/>



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