

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

ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1918



March 2018

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



The Indian Head cent, also known as an Indian Head penny, was a one-cent coin (\$0.01) produced by the United States Bureau of the Mint from 1859 to 1909. It was designed by James Barton Longacre, the Chief Engraver at the Philadelphia Mint.

“With the exception of what we received every month from the relatives of the crippled boy, all the rest of the residents were charity cases. In spite of this, God was ever ready to help us. St. Joseph, too, who was chosen as the patron of our group and our project from its very inception, aided us in all our needs both temporal and spiritual. We never sought the help of God or St. Joseph in vain, even though we did have to seek aid quite often.

One day I had only one penny in the treasury when a Sister approached me and petitioned for a new dress. The one she presently wore was completely threadbare. The Sister was right, of course; undeniably, she needed a new dress. I explained the situation to her and promised to buy some material for dresses for all of us as soon as I would be able to do so. Not only was she dissatisfied with my explanation, but she was also annoyed by it to such an extent that she poured out all the grievances that she held against me in words full of anger. I was afraid that the good God might be offended by these words. When the Sister left me, tears welled into my eyes; and it seemed as though I could do nothing to hold them back. But I just had to do something for the poor Sister so that there would be peace again. Suddenly a thought came to me: "Doesn't St. Joseph care for us anymore?" I presented my problem to him and, with complete confidence in his assistance, I did not worry any more. Help actually came; I do not ascribe the result to my inadequate prayer, because I firmly believe that St. Joseph would grant succor to anyone in need-- just as he did that day.”

*Chronicle*, p. 43 - 44

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✦ Do I rely more on money than on God?
- ✦ Have I ever named a patron for my home or my projects and sought help from this patron?

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR THE MONTH

I will chose a patron for at least one of my projects and regularly seek that patron's help, not only that the project be completed, but also that it bring God's kingdom closer to fruition.

## 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 #7 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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