

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

ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1918



May 2018

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



This India ink illustration by artist Walter Krawiec shows Venerable Mother Mary Theresa Dudzik taking on the particularly strenuous task of hand laundering cotton bedding and altar cloths to make peace with those Sisters who complained that Dudzik's work as a seamstress was easy compared to theirs.

"I had been ordered by the doctor to refrain from doing hard work and had obeyed his instructions for a few years. Yet, when it was necessary to sacrifice myself in order to bring peace, I did not hesitate; I went forth, trusting in the good God, and He came to my aid. I began my new work out; truthfully speaking, I felt sick at the beginning. However, with God's help I didn't have to stay in bed even for a day; I was able to cultivate such love for this task that I remained fulfilling it, without a break, for nine years. When I noticed that my health had not been a bit impaired by the heavy work, I strove to choose the hardest task. I note this, not to praise myself, but to reveal God's evident assistance. My mother, realizing that I was doing such hard work, was saddened and often cried; she thought that I would die prematurely."

*Chronicle*, p. 32

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✦ Too often we find ourselves in a situation where others are not doing their fair share of the work. After trying every proper remedy to rectify the situation, Mother Theresa still could not create a balanced work load among her Sisters, so she sacrificed to make peace.
- ✦ Do I follow her peaceful example or do I continue to rage and complain about injustices and wrongs?

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR THE MONTH

When all else has failed, I will opt for peace. I will put the reminder, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace” somewhere in my workplace or home to remind me of this commitment.

## 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 #9 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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