

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DEATH OF VENERABLE MOTHER MARY THERESA DUDZIK

ON SEPTEMBER 20, 1918

September 2017

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



An India ink rendering by artist Walter Krawiec of the original apartment building near St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Chicago into which young Dudzik welcomed the poor to live with her in her apartment.

“For a number of years I had already been contemplating in what way better comfort and lodging could be given to poor girls, widows, and to the sick, who were unable to do hard work. I had frequently sheltered too many of them in the limited quarters of my home. As a result, my mother often hindered me in my work of mercy because she was exposed to various inconveniences, for which I was reproached. She also remarked that not only I suffered, but that this action of mine compelled her to suffer, too.

I would then make promises that I would not accept any more of the poor. Nevertheless, as soon as Father Vincent had any trouble with such an unfortunate one, he would either escort her or send her to me to be taken care of. I could not refuse to comply with his wishes since I felt the misery and sufferings of others; and it seemed to me that I could not love Jesus, or even expect heaven, if I were concerned only about myself and my mother--not to suffer any inconvenience, but simply to live in comfort.”

Chronicle, p. 24

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- ✦ Is my primary motivation to live in comfort?
- ✦ Am I willing to accept personal inconveniences to do works of mercy and kindness to others?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY FOR THE MONTH

As I watch the news I will allow the misery and suffering of others to touch my heart. I will take some action to help the poor and suffering – give to a food pantry, donate Walgreens gift cards to St. Jude House or another shelter for survivors of domestic violence, lend a compassionate ear to a disheartened coworker.

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 100th anniversary of her death on September 20, 1918, the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago invite all to share in the spiritual treasures found in her handwritten journal, the *Chronicle*.

This guide represents #1 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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