



The Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



Indiana's
first saint

KEEPSAKE EDITION

CriterionOnline.com

October 20, 2006

Vol. XLVII, No. 3 75¢

St. Theodora Guérin: A journey of Providence



St. Peter's Square is seen during the canonization ceremony of four new saints by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican on Oct. 15. The pope canonized Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia of Vera Cruz; Italian Father Filippo Smaldone; Italian Sister Rosa Venerini; and Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.



Far left, Jessie McGuire Blessinger of Knoxville, Tenn., a pilgrim who traveled with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, carries a portrait of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin as she attends the nun's canonization ceremony.

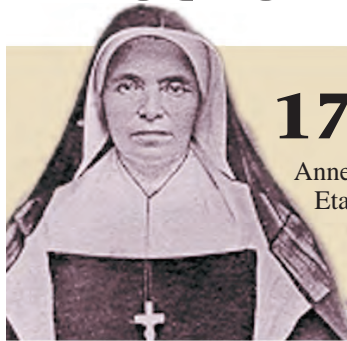
Left, Providence Sister Denise Wilkinson, general superior of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Philip McCord and Providence Sister Marie Kevin Tighe offer gifts to Pope Benedict XVI during the canonization ceremony for four saints, including Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin, on Oct. 15 at St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Photo by Kelly Wilkinson/The Indianapolis Star

CNS photo/Giuseppe Gullini, Catholic Press Photo

CNS photo/Giuseppe Sposito, Reuters

Mother Theodore Guérin's path to sainthood



1798

Anne-Thérèse Guérin was born on Oct. 2, 1798, at Etables-sur-Mer on the northern coast of France.

1856

On May 14, 1856, after spending only 16 years in America, Mother Theodore Guérin died.



Photo by John Starkey

Mother Theodore's memorial at the community's cemetery.

1856-1909

The story of Mother Theodore's life of heroic virtue was told and re-told. She had great faith and trust in God, and performed many works of love, mercy and justice among God's people.



1908

Providence Sister Mary Theodosia Mug was cured after praying at the tomb of Mother Theodore.

1909

Bishop Francis Silas Chatard, bishop of Indianapolis, formally introduced the cause for Mother Theodore's canonization as a saint.

1992

Mother Theodore was given the title "Venerable" after a thorough study of her life and virtues was approved by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

1998

Mother Theodore was given the title "Blessed" by Pope John Paul II on Oct. 25, 1998, after many medical doctors, theologians and cardinals had studied the circumstances associated with the cure of Sister Mary Theodosia Mug.

The spirit of Blessed Mother Theodore lives on at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. On her tombstone in the cemetery, we read:

"I sleep, but my heart watches over this house which I have built."

2005

The second miracle required for canonization, the healing of Philip McCord, was approved in Rome in July by the medical doctors, a panel of theologians and a group of cardinals from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

2006

At a Consistory meeting in Rome in July, Pope Benedict XVI announced that Mother Theodore would be canonized on Oct. 15, 2006, in Rome.

Time line information courtesy of Sisters of Providence. †

1823

Anne-Thérèse entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence of Ruillé-sur-Loir, France, on Aug. 18, 1823. She was given the name Sister St. Theodore. The name "Theodore" means "gift of God."



The Motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence at Ruillé-sur-Loir.

1840

Sister St. Theodore and five other Sisters of Providence arrived at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on the evening of Oct. 22, 1840. Four American girls were waiting to join them.



Drawing by Sr. Mary Emmanuel Rine, S.P. courtesy of Sisters of Providence Archives

Upon arrival at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Mother Theodore and her five sister companions immediately went to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in this log cabin chapel, which also served as the residence of the priest.



Photo courtesy Sisters of Providence Archives

The first academy, which would later grow to become Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, the first Catholic liberal arts college for women in the United States.

1841

On July 4, 1841, the first academy was opened. It was called Saint Mary's Female Institute, the forerunner of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

1840-1856

The Congregation of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods was established, as were many schools and other good works. Sister St. Theodore was given the title "Mother Theodore" as foundress of the new community of women religious.



Serving Marion, Morgan, Hendricks and Johnson Counties for 16 years

Marilyn Swango
317-441-2099



Call me for all your real estate needs.

We wish to congratulate the Sisters of Providence on the canonization of their foundress Saint Theodora Guérin



Member of St. Thomas More, Mooresville Pilgrimage Participant

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

Announces ...

Women Imaging God

A Symposium Celebrating the Sainthood of Mother Theodore Guerin

February 2-4, 2007

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana

Call for Presenters

The Committee welcomes proposals for presentations and workshops that examine the connections between women of faith and Saint Mother Theodore, founder of the Sisters of Providence, and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a woman of prayer, an educator, caregiver, naturalist, businesswoman, champion of justice ... a woman imaging God.



For more information contact
Dr. Patricia McIntyre, pmcintyre@smwc.edu,
Dr. Virginia Unverzagt, vunverzagt@smwc.edu
MAPT Office 1-812-535-5206

In Loving Memory of
Rev. Clarence R. Waldon

and

Congratulations to
Sr. Mary Quinn, SP

for her dedication to
Holy Angels Parish

With Love From

Holy Angels Parishioners

Pope Benedict XVI declares Mother Theodore Guérin a saint

By Sean Gallagher

VATICAN CITY—In a festive liturgy at St. Peter's Square attended by Catholics from across Indiana and around the world, Pope Benedict XVI made history on Oct. 15, solemnly declaring Mother Theodore Guérin as the first canonized saint from Indiana.

According to Providence Sister Marie Kevin Tighe, it's now up to us to fill the state with saints.

Minutes after the conclusion of the liturgy, she expressed her hope that all Hoosiers might see that becoming a saint, if not necessarily officially canonized, should be every person's goal.

"I don't know how that's going to happen, but that's my great hope," said the sister who over the past decade helped shepherd the cause of her order's foundress to the canonization Mass. "God wants all of us to be saints. That was the big lesson today."

Starting in November, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein plans to take this lesson throughout the archdiocese in the coming year in eucharistic celebrations of the canonization of St. Theodora Guérin in each of the 11 deaneries.

"It will be an opportunity to make St. Theodora better known," he said. "We can take pride in her by informing ourselves about her life and her holiness."

Pope Benedict did just that in his homily at the Mass, telling the thousands that nearly filled St. Peter's Square about her life as a religious, first in France, then in Indiana.

"With ... great trust in divine providence, Mother Theodore overcame many challenges and persevered in the work that the Lord had called her to do," he said.

It was this determination of St. Theodora that came to Sister Marie Kevin's mind as she glanced up at the huge portrait of the newly declared saint that hung from the façade of St. Peter's Basilica.

"Very frequently, I looked up [at her]," said Sister Marie Kevin, who participated in the offertory procession at the Mass. "And I saw her there as I always see her—as a woman of spiritual strength. Not just a strong woman. She was that. But she had great spiritual strength in the midst of adversity. She challenges us to imitate her in that way."

Philip McCord walked next to Sister Marie Kevin in the offertory procession.

He is the employee of the Sisters of Providence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods whose eye ailment was cured after he sought St. Theodora's intercession. It was this miracle, confirmed by a thorough Church investigation, which resulted in the canonization.

The night before the canonization, McCord spoke about arriving at St. Peter's Square for a rehearsal and seeing St. Theodora's banner.



Tapestries hanging from the façade of St. Peter's Basilica show four new saints canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican on Oct. 15. From left, the tapestries show Italian Sister Rosa Venerini, Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia, Italian Father Filippo Smaldone and Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

"I was standing there with Sister Paula Damiano looking at it and [I said], 'Is your heart beating as fast as mine is?' " he said. "We thought they were going to be covered. So that was a big surprise to walk in and there it was. It was so great."

The fact that McCord could see the portrait of the woman that he daily offers a prayer of thanks was due to her intervention in his life through her prayer on his behalf to God.

"I had one good eye [before], but I was able to see it much better with two," he said.

Although McCord has received much attention for what Indiana's first saint did for him, he knows that he is not alone.

"She is continuing to give," he said. "There are other stories coming in all the time of other healings and other intercessions. And as people learn about her and about what she did with her life, she'll be there for them, too."

The Sisters of Providence certainly hope that she will

continue to be there for them. But their superior general, Providence Sister Denise Wilkinson, said that this presence may very well be a challenging one.

"Now what?" she said during an interview just outside St. Peter's Square shortly after the liturgy.

"I think that's the question. What is ahead of us? What is the work that we have to do?"

Thoughts about the future of her own congregation might have been in her mind during the liturgy as well.

But Sister Denise, like Archbishop Buechlein and Sister Marie Kevin, also recognized that the message of the canonization of her community's foundress was that becoming a saint is the purpose of every human life.

"To sit in that square and to be surrounded by the statues of the saints, and to have so many people who I think were there out of their own goodness and their own love of God, it made me feel as if there are an awful lot of people in this world that want to do the right thing, who want to be good." †

Indiana pilgrims see new saint as impetus to strive for holiness

By Sean Gallagher

VATICAN CITY—Pilgrimage groups from Indiana and across the country joined pilgrims from Taiwan and France in Rome on Oct. 15 to celebrate the canonization of St. Theodora Guérin, the 19th-century foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

"Aside from getting married and having my kids, this is probably the most awesome moment in my life," said Julie Bowers, a participant in the archdiocesan canonization pilgrimage.

In part, it had deep meaning for Bowers because of her love for education, which she shows as principal of St. Patrick School in Terre Haute.

She had been taught by members of the Sisters of Providence and saw one of her elementary school principals, Providence Sister Martha Joseph Wessel, participate in an Oct. 14 vespers service in honor of Indiana's first saint held at the Church of the Gesu in Rome.

"It was just one of those full-circle moments," Bowers said.

Bowers planned to share her canonization experience with the students at her school through a weblog that she looked forward to writing on the pilgrimage.

"We're all called to holiness," she said. "I hope that they can see that this is a way that an ordinary person lived an extraordinary life, and that they can emulate that in their life, too."

That was what Bowers wanted for the young students under her care, and it was the same goal for a 79-year-old retired director of religious education who attended the canonization as part of the archdiocesan pilgrimage.

Pat Mayer directed the catechetical ministry at St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis for 18 years, and earned a master's degree from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in 1988.

She said the canonization of St. Theodora made her want to be a saint, too.

"You try to live the life that is saint-like," Mayer said. "You try to be a good person. And God gives you a lot of strength."

One-hundred twenty Sisters of Providence also made their way to Rome for the canonization of their foundress.

One was Providence Sister Jane Gibson, who ministers to the elderly at St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis.

"It's a dream that's come true. I never thought that I would see this," said Sister Jane, who has been a member of the order for 53 years.

Although she has striven for holiness as a religious for more than half a century, the canonization led Sister Jane to say enthusiastically how much she still wants to be like St. Theodora in her ministry.

"I hope that I can be like Mother Theodore and walk in the footsteps of Jesus as I go along and look at each one and say, 'You're made from God and I love you,' "

See PILGRIMS, page 12A

Your regular issue of *The Criterion* is inside

The regular Oct. 20 issue of *The Criterion* is included as the center 16 pages of this keepsake edition.

Although they are in the center, the pages are designed to be pulled out. The regular section is labeled page 1B to 16B.

Our regular features are included there: Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein's column, *Faith Alive!*, the Calendar of Events, the Opinion page, Obituaries and other local news.

— Mike Krokos, editor



Members of a pilgrimage organized by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods wave blue scarves as a sign of their joy at the canonization of the community's foundress, Mother Theodore Guérin, at St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Oct. 15.

The Pfister family would like to extend our joy of this momentous occasion. We have been dedicated to the life of Saint Mother Theodore Guérin, and we are excited that her work will now be shared with the world. She has always been a big influence in our lives. We congratulate the Sisters of Providence.

Pfisters
The family of Ben and Emma Pfister

INDIANAPOLIS
BEECH GROVE
MOORESVILLE

With the foresight to advance cardiology

5-star rated by HealthGrades® in treating heart attacks in 2005.

The heart to achieve excellence



Awarded the 2004 and 2005 HealthGrades Distinguished
Hospital Awards for Clinical Excellence.™

The courage to listen and anticipate

Consistently improving our services and facilities, including a
\$40 million expansion currently under way in Mooresville.

Rebuild and restore

Top 5% in the nation for overall orthopaedic care.

With machines, medicine and faith

A philosophy of healing that incorporates our Franciscan values of
compassionate concern, joyful service and respect for life.

We are leading the way

With three convenient hospital campuses, a medical staff of more
than 700 doctors and 4,000 employees to serve your needs.

 **ST. FRANCIS**

StFrancisHospitals.org



Saint maker

In Rome, Andrea Ambrosi serves as advocate for canonization

By Sean Gallagher

Andrea Ambrosi could be described as a "saint maker."

This was a term used by religion journalist Kenneth Woodward in his 1990 book *Making Saints* to describe those who serve as advocates of potential saints in the rigorous investigative process established by the Holy See's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The Catholic Church teaches that only God truly "makes" saints. But in the sacramental world view of the Church, there is an acknowledgement that God works through his creation and through human agents.

Ambrosi is one such agent. In his work for the congregation, he served in this role for the canonization cause of St. Theodora Guérin.

For more than a decade, traveling many times between his office in Rome to Indiana, he played a key role in shepherding her cause every step of the way to the Oct. 15 canonization liturgy at St. Peter's Square.

Ambrosi, a layman, was recently interviewed by *The Criterion* about his work for the cause of Blessed Mother Theodore.

Q: How long have you been a postulator in the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and how did you enter into this ministry?

A: I became a postulator following the apostolic constitution *Divinus Perfectionis Magister*, which came into effect in 1983, which allowed laypeople to occupy this role.

In reality, I had been working on causes of beatification and canonization since 1972 as a trainee and since 1977 as a counselor and defense attorney, a figure provided for by the former norms in effect according to the *Codex Iuris Canonici*

of 1917.

Q: You have helped shepherd many causes through the congregation. At present, you are the postulator of the cause of the Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté and of the cause of the Servant of God Archbishop Fulton Sheen, known to millions of Americans.

Please name some of the other causes that you have worked on that might be notable to Catholics in the United States.

A: In addition to these two American causes, I am also the Postulator of other causes such as those of Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton, Cardinal Terence Cooke, Father Nelson Baker, Mother Henriette Delille, and other foundresses who were working in the United States in Illinois and New York.

Q: When and how did you become the postulator of the cause of Venerable Mother Theodore Guérin?

I became postulator of the cause on Aug. 11, 1994. The cause was offered to me by Msgr. Robert Sarno, an official of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Q: What would you say are some of the unique aspects of the life and cause of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin?

Mother Theodore's most unique aspect was her strength, nurtured by the strength of her prayer.

She did not exclude anyone from her prayers and dedicated her life to helping people know God and live a better life. She was able to bring out the best in anyone and help them reach impossible goals.

She deeply loved God, the people of God, the Sisters of Providence, the Church and the people she served.

Q: Despite the inherent uniqueness of each miracle, did the healing of Philip McCord impress you in any particular way? Was the fact that he was not Catholic and even not a particularly religious man make his healing, in your



File photo/Brandon A. Evans

Andrea Ambrosi, postulator for the Cause of Canonization of the Servant of God Simon Bruté, first bishop of Vincennes, is pictured at the opening session of the Cause on Sept. 12, 2005, at the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis. Ambrosi also played a key role in the canonization cause of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin.

opinion, have a special meaning for men and women today?

The fact that he was not Catholic, yet he entered a Catholic church and prayed, in his own, unusual way, but he prayed to Mother Theodore Guérin for her intercession on his behalf. This prayer came from the heart. That is what impressed me.

Q: Will you be present at the canonization Mass? Will this liturgy be special for you, and if so, in what way?

A: Yes. Yes, it will, especially because it brings me great pleasure to see causes from the United States of America, something you do not see very often. To see this brings me particular joy.

Q: Do you see something of the character of Blessed Mother Theodore in

Providence Sister Marie Kevin Tighe, the vice postulator of the cause?

A: Yes, there is a great tenacity in furthering the message of love and compassion, characteristics which are particular to the Sisters of Providence.

Q: Although the canonization of Blessed Mother Theodore is ultimately due to the heroic virtue she showed during her life and God's answering of her prayer for Philip McCord, how would you say that her Oct. 15 canonization will be a credit to the ministry of Sister Marie Kevin?

A: I would say that the spreading of awareness of Mother Theodore Guérin and her ministry as well as the diffusion of veneration to Mother Theodore is a credit

See SAINT, page 14A

Cause for beatification and canonization was initiated in 1909

The Criterion archives

The cause for the beatification and canonization of Mother Theodore Guérin began in September 1909 when Bishop Francis Silas Chatard, bishop of the then Diocese of Indianapolis, approved the opening of the informative process.

Events that occurred in 1907 and 1908 prompted the opening of the cause.

In 1907, when the remains of Mother Theodore were transferred from the Sisters of Providence Cemetery to a crypt in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, both at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, it was discovered that a portion of Mother Theodore's brain tissue was intact, pink and healthy—even though

her body was buried in 1856.

Then, during the night of Oct. 30, 1908, Providence Sister Mary Theodosia Mug was healed of cancer and neuritis after she prayed at Mother Theodore's crypt for the health of another Sister of Providence.

During the informative process of the cause, 24 individuals testified to the holiness of Mother Theodore's life. The end of the process in 1913 marked the beginning of a study of Mother Theodore's writings, which were approved by the Vatican's Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints in July 1927.

The study of Mother Theodore's life continued with interviews and research at dioceses in France and Indiana.

In 1956, Pope Pius XII approved and

signed the *Placet Eugenio* to continue Mother Theodore's cause. Subsequently, the apostolic process was introduced, also in 1956.

In October 1978, Providence Sister Joseph Eleanor Ryan began compiling the *Positio*, a documented account of the life, work and writings of Mother Theodore.

The *Positio* was acknowledged to be sufficient to measure the sanctity of Mother Theodore and was approved by the Vatican's historical consultants and theologians.

On July 22, 1992, by papal decree, Pope John Paul II granted Mother Theodore the title "Venerable" in recognition of her virtuous and heroic life.

The next step in the cause involved a thorough investigation of the healing of

Sister Mary Theodosia. The investigation included the study of medical practices common in Indiana in the early 1900s.

In November 1996, medical consultants affiliated with the Vatican approved the healing of Sister Mary Theodosia as a miracle through the intercession of Mother Theodore. Subsequently, the healing was approved by Vatican theologians in March 1997 and by cardinals in June 1997.

On July 7, 1997, Pope John Paul II accepted the healing of Sister Mary Theodosia as a miracle through the intercession of Mother Theodore. The acceptance of the healing as a miracle opened the way for the beatification of Mother Theodore on Oct. 25, 1998. †

St. Augustine (Jeffersonville) Faith Formation

St. Theodora, patron saint of our
Pre-Kindergarten Class,

Pray for us.

Kylie Doherty

Olivia Hieb

Sophie Ketterer

Haley Keys

Landon Kruer

Amanda Pasierbowicz

Nicole Tash

Wesley Thomas

Sarah Williams

ERA Campbell Group, Inc.

MARINA AT GEIST

OFFICE (317) 576-0700

CELL (317) 339-0613

E-MAIL: ERAjancampbell@yahoo.com



Jan Campbell
Realtor/Broker

We would like to congratulate the
Sisters of Providence
on this special occasion.
We would also like to thank the
Sisters of Providence
for the excellent education you have provided to our
family
as well as many other families
in our community.
May God continue to bless you.

Sharing the Blessings of
Saint Mother Theodore Guérin
With the World
and
Congratulating the
Sisters of Providence!

The Terre Haute Deanery Parishes

Annunciation, Brazil
Sacred Heart, Clinton
St. Ann
St. Joseph, Rockville
St. Joseph University
St. Margaret Mary
St. Patrick

Holy Rosary, Seelyville
Sacred Heart of Jesus
St. Benedict
St. Joseph, Universal
St. Leonard, West Terre Haute
St. Mary of the Wood's Village
St. Paul, Greencastle

Miracle man

An answered prayer has changed Philip McCord's life

By Sean Gallagher

A serious eye illness. Weeks of growing concern. Some time alone in an empty church.

It was this simple chain of events—common to the lives of many people—that led Philip McCord to be in the offertory procession for the canonization Mass of St. Theodora Guérin at St. Peter's Square in Rome on Oct. 15.

More than five years ago, McCord, the director of facilities management for the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, was facing the possibility of a corneal transplant. Although not Catholic, McCord went into the sisters' Church of the Immaculate Conception and asked for the intercession of their foundress.

He noticed an improvement in his vision the very next day. And when he later visited an eye specialist, he was told that he no longer needed the transplant surgery.

After a thorough investigation, the Church determined that what happened to McCord was a miracle of God brought about through St. Theodora's intercession.

It was also the miracle that led to her canonization.

Before he left for Rome, *The Criterion* interviewed McCord about how his life has changed since he made that simple prayer five years ago.

Q: You've talked about the enormity of what's happening. How have you tried to come to terms with the fact that you're right in the middle of it?

A: I'll tell you the thing that I've realized is that how small a part in it I really am. The focus is properly and needs to be on Mother Theodore and her whole life. And there have been a number of other healings. I just heard about one yesterday. ... So I'm just grateful to be a part of it at all.

Q: Has the miracle changed what it's like for you to come there to work on an ordinary day with the sisters?

A: You kind of have to understand that my eye being healed is just one of the blessings of being here. Working with the sisters is rewarding on a daily basis. We



Dominican Sister Theresa Nguyen, who is a student at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, shares the sign of peace with Philip McCord at a eucharistic liturgy in honor of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Oct. 3, Mother Theodore's feast day. McCord, director of facilities management for the Sisters of Providence, had an eye condition healed through the intercession of Mother Theodore, who was canonized on Oct. 15. Mother Theodore is the first person from Indiana to become a saint.

are treated well. We are treated respectfully. We have authority to do our jobs. We're respected for those abilities.

Q: Have you thought about what it will be like participating in the canonization Mass?

A: First of all, my wife and I have never been to Rome. My wife is so excited that she's packed and unpacked twice. I'm sure that as I'm standing there it will seem unreal that this is the pope. [Laughs.] I'm really right here in St. Peter's, and I have a part in this. It's pretty overwhelming.

Q: What are your thoughts about the fact that, as a non-Catholic, you've played an important part in the life of the Catholic Church?

A: Mother Theodore never made any distinctions with the people that worked for her. She cared for them all and worked side by side with them all. So that's just really consistent. It's not a big surprise.

Q: Has your experience of the miracle and all of the things that have happened since then made an impact on your life of faith?

A: It has. I was raised Baptist. But it was kind of crammed down my throat. My dad's a lay minister. And so I just kind of frankly rebelled against the whole process. But I've worked for a Catholic hospital. And for sure in the past 20 years I've attended way more Masses than I have anything else.

To tell you the truth, I'll admit to my being lazy, and if the study and the process weren't so daunting, I'd probably be Catholic. But every time I think about doing it [I think], "Well, I'll get to it later."

Q: How would you say that this has had an impact upon your relationship with God?

A: My dad is so deeply faithful that I was always looking to be cynical. And that's kind of an easy cop-out. You don't really have to face things. Well, I had something happen to me that you need to face. ...

I'm much more prayerful [now]. I try to at least once a day talk to Mother Theodore and tell her thank you again.

Q: The Sisters of Providence frequently talk about how they feel her spirit at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Do you think that this has been a strong reality for you since the miracle

happened in your life?

A: I've seen it a lot, just in the way they live and work with each other. ... I have to tell you, they work at making things right more than anybody I've ever known. And I think the core of that is they ask themselves what guidance they have from Mother Theodore. What did she do in similar circumstances? The stories about her life have a big impact on their lives and my life.

Q: Does the example of her life give you some guidance now?

A: Well, I'll tell you, first of all, when things get hard here, you kind of think about their history. And I tell everybody that after some of the things that happened to her, I'd have packed up and gone home. ... But her perseverance through all of this was remarkable. So that kind of keeps you going.

Q: After you get back from Rome, there won't be any more steps to go through in this whole

process. Do you think your life will be changed after that?

A: It will be a little quieter. But it will have been changed because one of the things that's happened with this that is really neat is that I had a call ... from a friend of mine that I used to work with in Valparaiso that I hadn't seen in about 10 years who's working in Indianapolis now. ... I had a cousin call me that I hadn't seen in ages and some friends that I talk to.

Q: Has being interviewed frequently by reporters been an adjustment for you?

A: Yeah. I don't seek attention. So I'm not all that comfortable. But I've always sent up a prayer, "Please, God, don't let me embarrass the sisters." †

'Well, I'll tell you, first of all, when things get hard here, you kind of think about their history. And I tell everybody that after some of the things that happened to her, I'd have packed up and gone home. ... But her perseverance through all of this was remarkable. So that kind of keeps you going.'

— Philip McCord

Becoming Saints

Souls are often attracted by the idea of sanctity. Maybe it is actually the grace of God at work, stirring up such a desire in them.

Thinking about the preciousness of saints, of the influence of their personalities on their times, of the widespread and ongoing revolution that they have brought to the world, is often what kindles the flame of this yearning. But, at times, the soul so sweetly tormented by this idea looks to the saints as if confronted with an insuperable chasm or an impenetrable wall.

"What can I do to become a saint?" the soul asks. "What test, what system, what practices, what ways to follow are there?" ...

Every saint has features of his or her own, and saints look as different from one another as the greatest variety of flowers in a garden... But maybe there is a way which is good for everyone.

Maybe we do not need to figure out our own way, nor draw up plans or dream up a program; instead, plunge ourselves into the fleeting moment to fulfill for that instant the wish of Him who called Himself 'the Way' (Jn 14:6), the best of ways. The past moment exists no longer; the next shall perhaps never be ours. But it is certain that we can love God in the moment granted us at present. Holiness is built in time.

Nobody knows their own holiness; often not another person's either, so long as we are alive. It is only when the soul has completed its course and taken its exam, that it reveals to the world what was God's plan for it.

Our task then is to build holiness moment by moment, responding with all our heart, soul, and strength to the love God bears us - a love that is personal as our heavenly Father and as great as the love of a God.

Chiara Lubich



MUNDELL
& ASSOCIATES
caring for the earth and all it holds

The cherry on top

Sister Marie Kevin Tighe helped guide canonization cause



Providence Sister Marie Kevin Tighe has promoted Mother Theodore Guerin's canonization cause for 10 years and served as its vice postulator for the last four years.

By Sean Gallagher

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS— On Oct. 15, hundreds of thousands of people filled St. Peter's Square in Rome.

From this enormous assembly walked a small woman born 82 years ago in New Albany. She was part of the offertory procession that was met by Pope Benedict XVI, who minutes earlier had canonized the Church's four newest saints, including St. Theodora Guérin.

The small woman had a deep and abiding love for St. Theodora from the time she was in the first grade at the former Holy Trinity School in her hometown.

Later, she followed in the saint's footsteps by joining the religious community that St. Theodora founded in 1840, the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

And after decades of ministry in a wide variety of fields, this woman, Providence Sister Marie Kevin Tighe, dedicated herself to the sole task of promoting St. Theodora's canonization cause, a task she described as the "cherry on top of my life." She helped shepherd it all the way to St. Peter's Square.

The story of how Sister Marie Kevin made it from New Albany to Rome is, in many ways, the story of how God, in his providence, has led her every step of the way.

The birth of a vocation

Although Sister Marie Kevin was introduced to the Sisters of Providence and first learned about their foundress at Holy Trinity School, it wasn't until her high school years that her vocation started to emerge.

"It was a Sister of Charity [of Nazareth] who said to me one day in the middle of a mission bazaar, 'Did anyone ever tell you, you might have a vocation to be a sister?'" she said. "And I said no, and that was the end of the conversation."

Later, however, she discussed the possibility with the associate pastor of her parish. When he asked her what community she might want to join, her

answer was immediate.

"Right away I said, 'I want to be a Sister of Providence,'" she recalled.

Soon thereafter, she transferred to a high school at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods for young women contemplating joining the community.

She entered its novitiate in 1942.

Though, as a young sister, Sister Marie Kevin said that she was not "indoctrinated" in the teachings of St. Theodora, she said the legacy of her community's foundress was like the air she breathed.

"We never lost sight of her influence, and the power of her wisdom and strength," Sister Marie Kevin said. "Her courage and her fortitude under great difficulties were always the undergirding impetus for us to carry on the mission that she established."

Carrying on the mission

Starting in 1944, Sister Marie Kevin helped carry on the mission of Catholic education that St. Theodora had begun a century before.

She taught or served as principal at many Catholic schools in Illinois and Indiana, including St. Philip Neri School, St. Luke School, and the former Bishop Chartrand High School, all in Indianapolis, and St. Anne School in New Castle.

At all of these places, Sister Marie Kevin introduced her young charges to St. Theodora, just as her predecessors in the Sisters of Providence had done for her at Holy Trinity School.

Renewing the mission of St. Theodora in her own community was an important task given to Sister Marie Kevin in the years following the Second Vatican Council when she was asked to be a member of its renewal team.

This leadership had a profound impact on Providence Sister Denise Wilkinson. Now the community's superior general, she was relatively new to the community when Sister Marie Kevin was serving on the renewal team in the 1970s.

"Her thinking was formative to me because I was so new and, of course, I was taken with it," Sister Denise said. "It made sense to me."

Sister Marie Kevin's thinking, according to Sister Denise, was closely tied to St. Theodora.

"Marie Kevin has ... high expectations for the congregation," Sister Denise said. "And she herself strives to live up to her own expectations and encourages others to do the same. She's like Mother Theodore, I think. She can encourage without putting people down."

Sister Marie Kevin described her decision to help guide the renewal of her community as "the absolute turning point of my whole life."

It led her to help dozens of other religious communities in the same process. Later, Sister Marie Kevin aided seminarians at Saint Meinrad School of Theology and the former Saint Meinrad College, encouraging them to value renewal and collaboration with the laity.

In her ministry as the director of the archdiocesan Office of Pastoral Councils, she assisted Catholics on these boards in parishes throughout central and southern Indiana to renew their faith communities.

Measuring an inch

Spurred by the charisma of her order's foundress, Sister Marie Kevin had for two decades given of herself to others in the ministry of renewal.

'We never lost sight of her influence, and the power of her wisdom and strength. Her courage and her fortitude under great difficulties were always the undergirding impetus for us to carry on the mission that she established.'

— Sr. Marie Kevin Tighe

In 1994, a diagnosis of gastro-esophageal cancer forced her to pull back. This, too, was not unlike St. Theodora, who suffered from severe gastrointestinal problems for much of her adult life.

For 72 days, Sister Marie Kevin was a patient at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. A surgery to treat the disease resulted in the removal of half of her stomach, half of her esophagus, her spleen and part of her diaphragm.

Despite the gravity of her situation, Sister Marie Kevin not only survived but also recovered her health quickly.

Although she has a deep love for St. Theodora, Sister Marie Kevin never prayed to her for a cure and does not think that her recovery was a miracle.

But the episode was profoundly important for her.

After ministering for so long with such determination to help young people learn and communities to renew, she gained a broader perspective on her life from facing cancer.

"I understand now in a way that I never could have before that my life, even if I live to be 99, is about one inch long," Sister Marie Kevin said. "And on both ends of that inch there's a long line—one that goes backward toward eternity and one that goes forward to eternity."

"I'm not going to cling to this inch. I want to live it to the full. But I know that, you know, it's not the whole show."

Placing the cherry on top of her life

Soon after looking death in the face, Sister Marie Kevin was given the chance of a lifetime.

Providence Sister Nancy Nolan, the community's superior general at the time, asked her to become the new promoter of St. Theodora's then beatification cause.

She thought that Sister Marie Kevin was the "perfect fit" for the ministry.

"She is a very energetic person in spite of her years and the poor health she herself has endured through the years," Sister Nancy said. "And she took that on and ran with it with a vengeance, and has done just

See CHERRY, page 14A

*Terre Haute Deanery Schools
Congratulate the Sisters of Providence on the
Canonization of their foundress
Saint Mother Theodore Guérin*

Sacred Heart of Jesus School

PreKindergarten thru 5th Grade
1330 Lafayette Avenue
Terre Haute, IN 47804
812-232-8901

"Teaching Children Who Will Make a Difference."

Founded in 1923 by the Sisters of Providence



St. Patrick School

PreKindergarten thru 8th Grade
449 19th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47803
812-232-2157

"Building Saints and Scholars"

Founded in 1929 by the Sisters of Providence



**Right to Life of Indianapolis
honors the dedication of
Saint Theodora**

**Defend the Innocent...
the unborn, disabled, and elderly...**

- Would you like a **speaker on "Life Issues"** for your Sunday School Class or Church Group?
- Would your church like to participate in the **Rose Drive?**

317-582-1526

Volunteer Opportunities • Educational Events



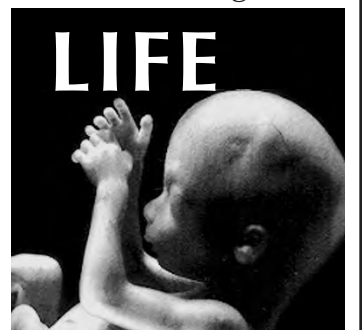
Right To Life of Indianapolis, Inc.

1060 East 86th Street, Suite 61-B, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

www.rtlindy.org

Fight for
What is Right:

LIFE





Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful as he arrives for the canonization ceremony of Italian Sister Rosa Venerini, Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia, Italian Father Filippo Smaldone and Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, at St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Oct. 15.



Concelebrants for the canonization ceremony and Mass at St. Peter's Square on Oct. 15, including Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, right, kiss the altar during the ceremony. Four people, including Mother Theodore Guérin, were deemed saints during the ceremony.



Three representatives of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the order founded by Mother Theodore Guérin, bring up relics of their foundress at her canonization ceremony at St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Oct. 15. The sisters are, from left, Sisters Ann Margaret O'Hara, Nancy Nolan and Diane Ris.

CELEBRATING ST. THEODORA GUÉRIN, A GIFT FROM GOD TO THE CHURCH



Providence Sister Jane Gibson of Indianapolis applauds as she waits to enter St. Peter's Square in Rome for the Oct. 15 canonization Mass. To her immediate right is Mary Weber, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis.



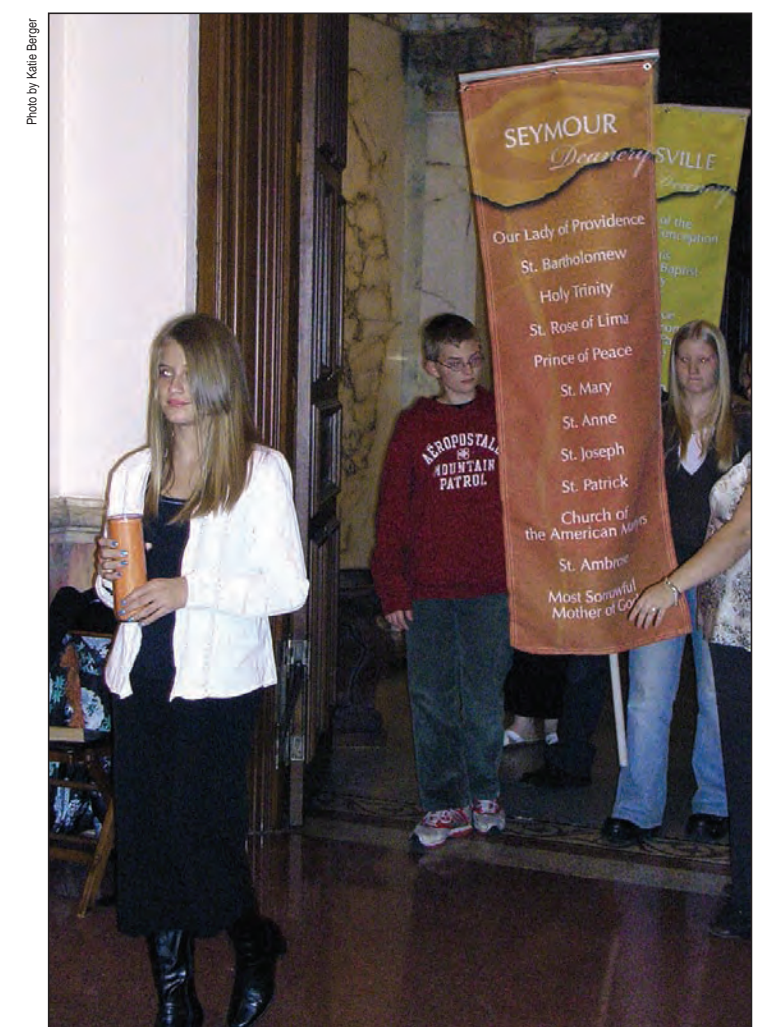
Sisters of Providence hold hands as they pray the Lord's Prayer during the eucharistic liturgy on Oct. 15 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. The 11 a.m. Mass was celebrated by Father Daniel Hopcus, chaplain of the congregation, seven hours after the canonization Mass in Rome.



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis prays during an Oct. 16 Mass of Thanksgiving for the canonization of Mother Theodore Guérin the previous day. The Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome.



A tapestry hanging from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica shows Mother Theodore Guérin, one of four new saints canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican on Oct. 15. St. Theodora founded an order of nuns still active today and was a pioneer in Catholic education in Indiana in the 19th century.



Deanery representatives from the archdiocese's 11 deaneries process in with candles and banners at the beginning of the Oct. 15 Mass for youths at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. About 300 young people attended the Mass honoring St. Theodora Guérin.

What Mother Theodore Guérin means to me

By Sean Gallagher

Although she died 150 years ago, St. Theodora Guérin continues to send ripples through the lives of countless Catholics across the archdiocese to this very day.

Many were taught by members of the Sisters of Providence at various levels of their education and learned about the sisters' foundress, especially on Oct. 22, the order's Foundation Day.

Others have developed a spiritual bond with St. Theodora and sought her intercession when they or a friend or a loved one was ill.

Now that she is canonized, St. Theodora belongs to the whole world. But there is a special place for the first Hoosier saint in the hearts of many Catholics in central and southern Indiana.

The following stories show what St. Theodora means to three archdiocesan Catholics.

A window of memories

Each day when Father James Wilmoth opens and closes St. Roch Church, he looks up with love at a stained-glass window of St. Theodora Guérin.



Fr. James Wilmoth

The window calls to mind the saint who has been a part of his life for 61 years and who was an inspiration for his priestly vocation.

It also reminds Father Wilmoth of his deceased parents, Dutch and Mary Jane Wilmoth. The priest paid for the window in the recently restored and renovated church with some of the money that he inherited from his mother when she died.

"I couldn't think of any better way to spend that money than to give it to St. Roch to pay for that window," said

Father Wilmoth, the pastor of the Indianapolis South Deanery parish. "It's very touching to me."

Growing up in the 1940s on Indianapolis' near-east side, Father Wilmoth recalled his mother telling him about St. Theodora. He also learned about her from the Sisters of Providence who staffed St. Philip Neri School, where he followed in his mother's footsteps as a student.

"Every one of our classrooms back then had a picture of Mother Theodore Guérin," he said, "so every year as I went all the way through grade school, I learned more and more about her. She's been very special to me since I was 6 years old."

After completing the eighth grade, Father Wilmoth became a seminarian. His love of St. Theodora and all she did to build up Catholic schools in Indiana filled him with the desire to continue to build up Catholic education as a priest.

"All the time that I was in the seminary, Mother Theodore was someone that I always thought about," he said. "And, of course, when I got ordained as a priest, I had the opportunity to be put in a school as a teacher. Well, that was just the neatest thing in the world because, there again, I was able to kind of continue doing what she had taught."

In addition to teaching at the former Bishop Bruté Memorial Latin School of Indianapolis and Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, Father Wilmoth has always served in parishes that had a school. He is back serving once again as the chaplain at Roncalli.

His own legacy in Catholic education in the archdiocese is now marked in a sense in the window that portrays the holy woman who inspired him to give his life as a priest and servant of Catholic schools.

"The way she lived her life, and how she gave her life for the Lord and what she taught, for us to be able to put her image in one of these windows was a



Photo by Sean Gallagher

As a sign of love for his parents and St. Theodora Guérin, Father James Wilmoth donated money to St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis for the creation of a stained glass window of St. Theodora that was installed in April as part of the church's restoration and renovation.

wonderful tribute to her, to Catholic education and to anybody who is a follower of Jesus," he said.

Seeing holiness through a child's eyes

To return to his grade-school memories of learning about St. Theodora, Father Wilmoth has to go back more than half a century.

Abbey Hensley is creating her own memories right now.

She is a third-grader at St. Malachy School in Brownsburg, and recently learned about St. Theodora.

"At Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, I have now walked where a saint walked, and that makes me happy," said Abbey, whose school was founded by the Sisters of Providence.

Abbey learned about St. Theodora from her parents and by visiting the Heritage Museum at Providence Center on the grounds of the motherhouse of the religious community that St. Theodora founded in 1840.

"I love to pray and talk to ... Mother Theodore," Abbey said. "I love Mother Theodore so much, and when I go to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods with my mom

and grandma, I learn to love her more and more."

Her love for St. Theodora has led her to share the saint's story with others.

"I've told my friends about Blessed Mother Theodore and how special she was, and about how I was hoping she would become a saint," Abbey said. "Now it's come true."

Keeping a promise

Julie Young knew little about St. Theodora or the religious community she founded in 1840 when she began her studies in the Women's External Degree program at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

But "on a whim," Young decided to visit St. Theodora's tomb at the Sisters of Providence's Church of the Immaculate Conception.

"I asked her to get me through my education," said Young, a member of St. Thérèse of the Infant Jesus Parish in Indianapolis. "I literally made a deal with her and said, 'If you get me through this, somehow I will give it back to you.' I still believe I made a very important friend

See SAINT, page 12A

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS
COLLEGE

Life in Progress

CAMPUS, DISTANCE, AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS
1-800-926-SMWC
WWW.SMWC.EDU

FOUNDED BY SAINT MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN
LOCATED IN WEST CENTRAL INDIANA

Rejoice!

We rejoice with the Sisters of Providence and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on the canonization of Indiana's first saint, St. Theodora Guérin, SP.

Archabbot Justin and the monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey

Saint Meinrad

Archabbey & School of Theology
200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577
800-682-0988
www.saintmeinrad.edu

Young people encouraged to follow St. Theodora's example

By Katie Berger

Special to The Criterion

SAINT MARY OF THE WOODS—The fruits of St. Theodora Guérin's tireless work for Catholic education in Indiana became clear on Oct. 15 as 300 high school youths and family members gathered for Mass and a tour of the grounds at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on the day of St. Theodora's canonization.

The afternoon was a way to bring archdiocesan young people together to take part in this historic day, said Annette "Mickey" Lentz, executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education and Faith Formation.

"Our youth are our future Church, and we have to get them aware of the greatness that has gone before us, and this was the way to do that," she said.

Lentz, a graduate of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, said she always knew of Mother Theodore Guérin and referred to her as a "woman for all ages." She said her canonization comes at a time "when the country is most in need and the diocese can be something for others."

In his homily, Father Jonathan Meyer, archdiocesan director of youth and young adult ministry, called St. Theodora a woman of "P.E.P." That P.E.P.—providence, evangelization and perseverance—is evidenced in various aspects of her life.

From her trust in God's will to her persistence in answering the call to religious life and submitting herself to the difficult task of catechizing a large region, she is a model for young people, he said.

"She is an example to us of a woman who dedicated her whole life to Jesus Christ," said Father Meyer, who also serves as associate pastor of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis. "How wonderful it

is for all of us as young people to answer that same call, to answer that same mission, to share the message of Jesus Christ to the world."

The youth Mass brought participation from across the archdiocese, including many young people who attend Catholic school or parish religious education programs. Each of the archdiocese's 11 deaneries had representatives to carry banners for the entrance procession. Leaders from the Archdiocesan Youth Council, who served in all the liturgical ministries, chose the readings and wrote petitions.

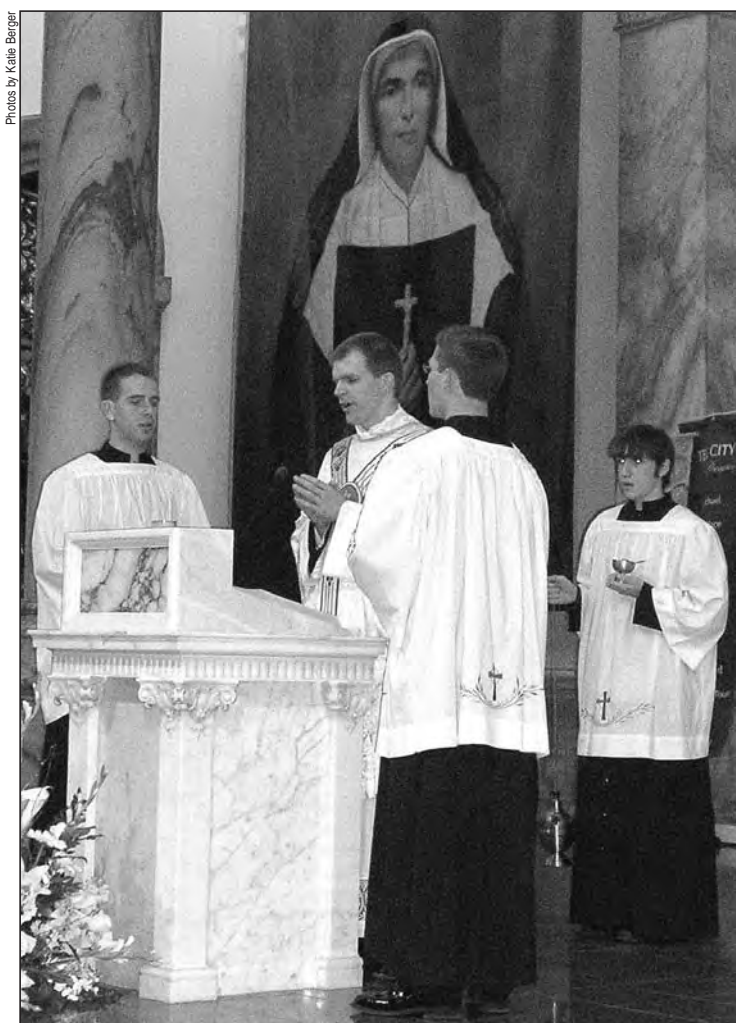
Mandy Maher, who assists in youth ministry at St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish, only had to travel a short distance to take part in the afternoon since her parish is within walking distance of the campus.

She noted that the youth Mass was an opportunity for young people to see a bigger picture of the Church. "I think it was important for our youth to see the Catholic presence around the state."

Maher also hopes St. Theodora's example will lead youths deeper into the life of faith. "She had a great devotion to the Eucharist. I hope that the youth can feel her presence and have a greater respect for the Eucharist."

For those who had a longer drive to the Mass, the archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry sent compact discs out prior to the weekend for youths to listen to on the way. The CD included short narratives on the life of Mother Theodore, songs that were to be used at Mass, a litany and recitation of the rosary. The bulk of the CD's work came from Susan Jansen, a familiar face to many Indianapolis South Deanery parishioners, and her company, Lily Publishing.

Matthew Duncan, a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in



Father Jonathan Meyer, archdiocesan director of youth and young adult ministry, proclaims the Gospel during the youth Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Oct. 15.

New Albany, was among the participants who had a longer journey. He called the canonization a "spiritual landmark" for Indiana which, he said, made the long trip worth it. "I believe that she is easy to relate to," he said of St. Theodora. "She is a great role model of holiness."

"I hope that I can be a pioneer and take the road less traveled," he added.

Friends Kelsey Monahan and Matt Yazge, both seniors at Terre Haute South High School, came together to celebrate and honor their local saint.

Monahan, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute, said she felt honored that so many sets of eyes were focused on her city. "I think it's amazing

See YOUNG, page 15A



Rebecca Totten of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Indianapolis receives the Precious Blood during Communion from Jordan Leising, an Archdiocesan Youth Council member. Leising is a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville.

GUERIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Spirituality • Academics • Leadership • Service



Now accepting applications for the 2007-08 school year

GUERIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

- Grades: 9-12
- Established: 2004
- Average Class Size: 20 students
- Member of the Diocese of Lafayette
- Offers 16 varsity sports and numerous clubs
- School is a wireless environment and technology is integrated into the daily curriculum
- Open House Date: November 12, 2006 - 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- School's namesake, Mother Theodore Guerin, was canonized as Indiana's first saint on October 15, 2006
- School was accepted as an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in May of 2006. The IB program is a comprehensive pre-university curriculum program that is recognized around the world for its high academic standards.



15300 Gray Road • Noblesville, IN 46062 • (317) 582-0120
www.guerincatholic.org



Thinking About Christmas?

Consider Native American gifts from the Southwest. Every penny of profit goes to help the poor and homeless.

Check us out at our "On Line Store" www.navajoworld.com

"A beautiful gift made by beautiful people for a beautiful cause"

Pottery • Dream Catchers • Rosaries • Kachina Dolls ...and More!

505-839-2106



Great Prices • Includes "Certificate of Authenticity"

SAINT

continued from page 10A

that day.”

That friendship continued to blossom throughout her time as a student at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. “In each step of that journey, I often relied on her for spiritual guidance,” Young said, “and often prayed that the canonization process would conclude so that this woman, who was so richly deserving, could become a saint.” When she graduated last year, Young knew she had a promise to keep. “I didn’t know if I should just donate



Julie Young

money to the school or what would be the best way to ‘give it back’ to her,” she said. “It was then that I realized that maybe I should use my talents and my degree in writing to help others come to know Mother Guérin in the same way that I did.”

So her first book project became a youth biography of St. Theodora, which is expected to be published next spring by the Indiana Historical Society.

As *The Criterion* went to press, both Young and Father Wilmoth were planning to be in Rome for the canonization of the woman who has meant so much to them.

On Oct. 15, Abbey expected to be at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods celebrating the canonization with her family and the Sisters of Providence.

“Mother Theodore is a great pick for a saint,” Abbey said. †



Abbey Hensley, a third-grade student at St. Malachy School in Brownsburg, stands next to a diorama at the Providence Center on the grounds of the motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. The scene portrays the early days of the religious community founded by St. Theodora Guérin in 1840.

PILGRIMS

continued from page 3A

she said.

After the liturgy, as the thousands of worshippers flooded out of the square, some who came to celebrate St. Theodora’s canonization were separated from their friends.

Among them was Providence Sister Barbara Doherty. Yet while she was concerned about being separated and scanned the large piazza in search of her companions, her heart was still aglow with the power of the Mass.

She had been part of a choir for the Mass made up of Sisters of Providence that sat close to the altar directly in front of St. Peter’s Basilica. The group sat under a banner of her community’s foundress that hung from the church’s façade.

“The moment after [Pope Benedict XVI] pronounced the canonization, I turned around and was weeping looking up at

her,” Sister Barbara said. “I was right underneath her.”

From her spot at the top of the square, the sister who served as president of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College from 1984-98 could also see the thousands of people from around the world who had come to celebrate St. Theodora and the three others canonized by Pope Benedict. Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia, Italian Father Filippo Smaldone and Italian Sister Rosa Venerini were also declared saints by the pope.

“I’m very grateful for more people to hear about her [St. Theodora] all the time,” Sister Barbara said. “And I hope we can spread her name and her goodness across the world in any way that we know how.”

There was a large contingent from Mexico among the worshippers. They were there in part to celebrate the canonization of St. Rafael Guizar Valencia, a bishop of Vera Cruz, Mexico, who died in 1938 after ministering for two decades under constant oppression from the



A member of the papal Swiss Guard stands in front of a poster from a Taiwanese pilgrimage group to Rome to celebrate the canonization of St. Theodora Guérin, the 19th-century foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. The religious community founded a university in Taiwan.

Mexican government.

Diane McKeever, a member of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis and a participant in the archdiocesan pilgrimage, appreciated the international makeup of the liturgy’s massive congregation.

“Whenever you’re with people from other countries, it’s an opportunity to learn about their culture and to share that, especially with your family,” she said. “In my case, I feel it’s important because I do belong to a center-city parish. And we’re blessed to have a lot of children from

Mexico. And we had a Mexican bishop canonized.”

In the end, McKeever echoed the sentiments of many Hoosier pilgrims in expressing her near disbelief that she saw the canonization of Indiana’s first saint.

“It’s the event of a lifetime,” she said. “I never thought I would be at a canonization, and especially to have the privilege of attending one for a saint from our own state, to have our archbishop here and all the priests—it was a wonderful experience that I’ll never forget. †



Quality Roofing Service Since 1955
LICENSED BONDED INSURED



Locally owned and operated by Douglas E. Miller
Residential and Commercial
Licensed, Bonded and Fully Insured

Residential

- New roofs
- Tear offs
- Reroofing
- Repairs and
- Gutters

Commercial

- Certified commercial roofing contractors in the installation of modified bitumen, EPDM and Built-up Roof Systems
- Firestone, GAF, Gen Flex manufacture warranties

Still accepting insurance claims for HAIL and scheduling roof replacements

SATISFIED CUSTOMERS:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Fatima Retreat House | St. Andrew Church |
| Holiday Inn | Marine Center |
| WXIN Channel 59 | Acapulco Joe's |
| The Catholic Center | Immaculate Heart of Mary |
| Marriott Hotels | WRTV Channel 6 |
| Chuck E. Cheese | Ray Skillman GMC |

Schedule a Roof Replacement for Spring 2007 and SAVE \$200⁰⁰

Mission Statement:

“Be conservative, be honest and never enter a transaction from which you wish to exclude the light of day, or the knowledge of respectable men.” —William W. Miller, 1931

Call today for your free estimates:

317-783-7261 317-842-5535 Fax: 317-783-7265

24-hour answering service

Additional memberships:

Midwest Roofing Contractors Association • Indiana Roofing Contractors Association
Coomer Roofing Company • 6204 S. Harding • Indianapolis, IN 46217
www.CoomerRoofing.com • E-mail: Douglas720@aol.com for questions or comments

Repeat and referral business is the cornerstone of our success.

A dream come true

At Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, churchgoers celebrate new saint

By Mary Ann Wyand

SAINT MARY-OF-THE WOODS—Providence Sister Agnes Pauline Meinert received a special birthday present this year.

St. Theodora Guérin, the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Square in Rome on Oct. 15, which also was Sister Agnes Pauline's 90th birthday.

The canonization was "icing on the cake" for Sister Agnes Pauline, who couldn't believe that this historic and spiritual event happened on her birthday.

"In the summertime," she said, "when the Holy Father announced that the canonization would take place on Oct. 15, I hollered, 'That's my birthday!'"

It was a birthday wish and longtime dream come true, Sister Agnes Pauline said after the 11 a.m. eucharistic liturgy at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse, which began seven hours after the formal canonization Mass at the Vatican.

The motherhouse church was filled for the liturgy, which included a brief message from Providence Sister Denise Wilkinson, general superior of the congregation, who called from Rome after the canonization.

Father Daniel Hopcus, chaplain of the congregation and celebrant for the Mass, began the liturgy by telling the sisters and guests at the motherhouse that Sister Denise said, "Everything [at the canonization] was beautiful, and she was holding everyone at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in her heart and prayers."

During his homily, Father Hopcus noted that the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time was an extraordinary day for the Sisters of Providence.

Mother Theodore dedicated her life to serving others because she loved God, he said, and never doubted that she was doing God's work.

"Faced with countless obstacles and setbacks, [Mother Theodore] founded this community in the shadow of the cross," Father Hopcus said. "[She knew that] if this community that she was establishing was going to last ... it would be established on the cross."

He said Mother Theodore's canonization "serves as a reminder of her solidarity with all the Sisters of Providence, who God has called to live the life of a saint ... to the best of their ability."

Providence Sister Mary Beth Klingel welcomed the gathering at the start of the Mass.

"Words cannot capture in any way our great joy and the significance of this

Photos by Mary Ann Wyand



Providence Sister Jeanne Hagelskamp, dressed as St. Theodora Guérin, congratulates Providence Sister Agnes Pauline Meinert on her 90th birthday on Oct. 15, the same day that the foundress of the congregation was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Square in Rome. The sisters were enjoying dinner at the motherhouse at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods following an 11 a.m. eucharistic liturgy for the local celebration of the canonization.

event," Sister Mary Beth explained. "Mother Theodore is now a saint of the universal Church, but what a unique privilege it is for all the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, for the State of Indiana and for the United States of America to claim her as our own."

The Mass was a prelude to the Canonization Liturgy of Thanksgiving for Foundation Day on Oct. 22 at the motherhouse church, which will include

Providence sisters who journeyed to Rome for the historic ceremony.

Before and after the Mass, sisters and guests waited in line to venerate the remains of the French-born missionary sister who became the eighth U.S. saint and first Indiana saint earlier that day.

Father Joseph Kern, dean of the Terre Haute Deanery, had already celebrated Masses on Saturday and Sunday so he attended the liturgy as "one of the people of God" in the pews.

The canonization of their foundress is "a real joy, a glorious day, for the sisters," Father Kern said. "I don't like to try to predict what the Lord is going to do, but hopefully it will help vocations to the religious life and priesthood."

Archdiocesan seminarian Rick Nagel, a member of Holy Trinity Parish in Edinburgh, spent three days at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods for a spiritual

See DREAM, page 15A

St Theodore Guerin, Pray for us!

Mother Theodore Guérin: A Woman for Our Time \$11⁰⁰
(St. Theodore Guérin's biography—DVD and CD also available)

St. Theodore's writings about her journey to Terre Haute and daily life in her own words
Mother Theodore Guérin: Journals and Letters \$11⁰⁰

Daily Calendar of Inspirational Quotes by
St. Theodore Guérin \$5⁰⁰

Holy Family Books and Gifts

Make us your total Catholic resource center!



1352 S Rangeline Road, Carmel
(116th & Rangeline Road)
Phone: 317-705-2468
holyfamilybooks@yahoo.com
Open M-T-W-F 10a-6p
Thurs 10a-8p, Sat 10a-6p

We congratulate the Sisters of Providence and offer our prayers of gratitude to Saint Theodore Guérin.

Inspirational sightseeing—candlelight rosary
processions, daily Mass Pilgrimage

February 3-12, 2007: Shrines of France: Paris
"Miraculous Medal," Lixieux "St. Theresa," Orleans "St.
Joan of Arc," Nevers "incorrupt body of St. Bernadette,"
and Lourdes "Our Lady of Lourdes" with Fr. Joshua Janko

Register by 11/01/06

Speaker's Travel
Lion and the Lamb Journeys
Call For FREE Brochures

www.lion-lamb.com
E-mail: taiwl@lion-lamb.com

800-452-9153

The Village Dove



October
the Month of the
Rosary

Bring in this ad and receive
20% off one in-store rosary.

Now Two Locations

722 E. 65th Street
Indianapolis
317-253-9552

11523 Lantern Road
Fishers
317-845-5487

Toll Free: 1-888-240-1858
www.villagedovein.com • E-mail: vildove@aol.com

CHERRY

continued from page 7A

magnificent work.”

Part of that work was keeping in contact with the many people like herself, people faced with life-threatening illnesses who loved St. Theodora.

“I’ve been able to say to people who feel hopeless [that] you have to always maintain your hope and trust ... [and] try to know you’re in God’s hands,” Sister Marie Kevin said. “I wouldn’t be able to speak so well and so calmly with them if I hadn’t been through it all myself.”

Philip McCord is one of these people. A non-Catholic employee of the Sisters of Providence, in 2001 he was facing the prospect of needing a corneal transplant. He asked Mother Theodore for her intercession and was subsequently healed.

After telling members of the religious community about the cure, he was asked to tell Sister Marie Kevin about it.

“I asked her, ‘Isn’t this kind of a small thing?’ [I knew] her history,” he said. “And she said, ‘Was it a small thing to you?’ [And I said,] ‘Well, no.’”

McCord has grown to have a deep regard for Sister Marie Kevin.

“Every time you talk to her, there’s a sparkle in her eye,” he said. “It’s just a joy being around her.”

Providential timing

The joy that McCord feels when he is with Sister Marie Kevin may just come from her lifelong love of St. Theodora.

“I think I have been absolutely penetrated with the message of Mother Theodore,” Sister Marie Kevin said. “Her life and her spirit and her works are so much a part of me that I always tease people and say, ‘If you ask me to talk about Mother Theodore, you’re in a heap of trouble because you’ve dropped in a nickel and you’re going to get more than you ever wanted to know. My trouble will be trying to stop.’”

After making St. Theodora’s message so much a part of herself, it was fitting that Sister Marie Kevin not only would help promote her cause so vigorously, but also would take part in her canonization Mass.

But shortly after the date of the Mass was announced in July, Sister Marie Kevin experienced severe abdominal pains.

She was soon hospitalized and placed in intensive care. It was discovered that her pain was in part due to a long-term effect of her 1994 surgery. Another surgery was required in July. And it looked like Sister Marie Kevin might not be able to make it to Rome.

“By the grace of God, I had a great moment of resignation because at first I thought I would not be able to go,” Sister Marie Kevin said. “And I was amazingly peaceful with that. But, as time went on, and I recovered very well, I became equally



Providence Sister Marie Kevin Tighe stands before a portrait of St. Theodora Guérin at the motherhouse at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. A member of the Sisters of Providence for 64 years, Sister Marie Kevin said that she has been “absolutely penetrated with the message” of her order’s foundress.

elated over the fact that I could go.”

Speaking less than two months before the canonization, Sister Marie Kevin remarked that her recent hospitalization happened at just the right time, with a long enough period before the canonization that she was able to recuperate fully.

“God reveals himself to me in timing,” she said.

In many ways, this woman has, like St. Theodora, placed her trust in God’s

providence, believing that God will guide her along her path through this life to the next.

“I just think that [the canonization] is a very appropriate ending,” Sister Marie Kevin said. “Not that I am planning on dying tomorrow or next week, but because of my age, I don’t think I have many more years to live.

“So it just feels that everything that’s happened in my life happened at the right time.” †

SAINT

continued from page 5A

to the ministry of Sister Marie Kevin.

Q: Having worked on so many other causes, how would you appraise the work that Msgr. Frederick Easton [vicar judicial for the archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal] and all of his collaborators carried out in investi-

gating this miracle?

A: Excellent. Theirs is one of the best ecclesiastical tribunals in the U.S.A. I have known Msgr. Frederick Easton since the time that we studied canon law together in Rome. I have great respect for him, and the way in which he conducted the investigation into the miracle is proof of how well this tribunal works.

Q: How would you describe the way

in which the mundane human tendencies of being deliberate, scientific and legally precise intermingle with the unexpected, unexplainable and transcendent nature of miracles in the canonical investigations of purported healings?

A: This is the proof of the extreme care which is taken and demanded in carrying out a trial on an alleged miracle.

This just goes to show that only true

miracles manage to pass such scrupulous investigation. The process is intentionally made very difficult, precisely so that only true miracles come through such a severe trial.

Neither should we forget that the Holy Father is the one to declare a new saint. We must naturally put the Holy Father in such a position so as to be absolutely certain of what he is announcing to the world *ex cathedra*. †



The Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Mission Office
Pontifical Missions Society
Congratulate
The Sisters of Providence
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods
on the
Canonization
of Their Foundress
Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin
St. Theodora
October 15, 2006

DREAM

continued from page 13A

retreat to prepare for his ordination to the diaconate by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein on Oct. 28 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church in St. Meinrad.

"I came here with two other [Saint Meinrad] seminarians from Phoenix and South Korea because we're going to be ordained deacons in two weeks," Nagel said. "We thought, 'What a beautiful time to celebrate the canonization of St. Mother Theodore Guérin.'"

Nagel said it was very humbling to venerate her remains.

"I just keep thinking about her words and what it means to become a saint," he said. "It's nothing extraordinary, just the ordinary things of everyday life, but to do them with a great love for God."

Providence Sister Eileen Ann Kelley, a retired sister who read the first reading for the liturgy, said after the Mass that Mother Theodore's canonization was "beyond description" and she feels overwhelmed by it.

"I never thought I would live to see it happen so I have shed more than one tear," Sister Eileen Ann said. "I think it's going to have such an impact upon us individually and as a community, and also upon many, many other people."

YOUNG

continued from page 11A

how big Terre Haute, Indiana, is at this moment," Monahan said. "It gives me a lot of hope that someone from my hometown is a saint."

Yazge, who attends a Greek Orthodox Church, felt that St. Theodora's impact extends beyond faith denominations. "Her example is one that any person can follow," he said. "Even for people who aren't Catholic, Mother Theodore definitely led an amazing life."

Sarah Watson, principal of St. Gabriel the Archangel School in Indianapolis and coordinator of the Archdiocesan Youth Council, said she was impressed by the effect that one person had on so many lives.

"She didn't ask to have this impact," Watson said. "She was just living the life she was called to live."

Watson said that just as St. Theodora impacted numerous lives around the world, so too could youth do the same if they followed her approach to life.

"If we all just live the life we're called to live, maybe we don't realize the hundreds and thousands of people we're impacting on a daily basis," she said.

"It is you who are the Church now. It's you who will bring Christ to the world," Father Meyer told the young people. †

She's such an inspiration."

Providence Sister Jeanne Hagelskamp, president of the new Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis—a work-study ministry of the congregation that will serve low-income students—dressed as St. Theodora to greet sisters and visitors.

"Mother Theodore's mission, the reason she came to Indiana, was to work among the poor, particularly children," Sister Jeanne said. "It's particularly humbling for me to be here today and to know that I'm walking in her footsteps."

Sister Jeanne said many sisters got up at 4 a.m. on Sunday to watch the Eternal Word Television Network's live coverage of the canonization Mass then prayed together at the original gravesite of their foundress at the motherhouse

cemetery.

Images and artwork of St. Theodora were on display at the Providence Center and Shrine of Our Lady of Providence at the motherhouse, and new road signs decorated portions of U.S. 150 that Gov. Mitch Daniels recently renamed "St. Mother Theodore Guerin Memorial Highway."

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College senior Lindsey Richardt, a member of Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville, helped greet visitors at the Providence Center and Shrine of Our Lady of Providence with three other members of the student presidential corps.

"It's really, really great to be a student on campus right now," Richardt said. "I love St. Mary's and feel really honored to be here. It's very prestigious to attend a school founded by a saint." †

Photos by Mary Ann Wyand



Seminarians Thomas Aquinas Hong, left, of Busan, South Korea; Paul Sullivan from the Archdiocese of Phoenix; and Rick Nagel from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis venerate the remains of St. Theodora Guérin at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Oct. 15, a few hours after the French-born missionary sister was canonized by the pope. The seminarians are studying for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad School of Theology, and had just completed a three-day retreat to prepare for their ordination to the diaconate on Oct. 28.

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

The Sisters of Providence express our gratitude to Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and all the people of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for the outpouring of support, interest and affection shown us on the occasion of the canonization of our foundress, Saint Mother Theodore Guerin.

May all of us respond as generously to the universal call to holiness as this newest Saint of God!

Sisters of Providence
OF SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS
Breaking boundaries, creating hope.®
www.SistersofProvidence.org

Updated version of St. Theodora biography to be released

By Mary Ann Wyand

Just in time for Christmas, the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods expect to release an updated version of a popular biography of St. Theodora Guérin.

Mother Theodore Guérin—A Woman for All Time, a Saint of God, written by Penny Blaker Mitchell, is a revised edition of *Mother Theodore Guérin—A Woman for Our Time*, which was published shortly before her beatification by Pope John Paul II on Oct. 25, 1998, at St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Now a member of St. Paul Parish in Sellersburg and an employee of Providence Self-Sufficiency Ministries in Georgetown, Mitchell wrote the first book in 1998 when she worked for the sisters' Office of Congregational Advancement at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

"When we were preparing for the beatification," Mitchell explained in a recent telephone interview, "it became known that we needed what they call a popular biography ... so most anyone could read it and understand who Mother Theodore was and how important she could be in anyone's life."

The congregation's officers asked her to write the book on rather short notice.

"I only had a little bit less than six months to get it done," she recalled. "I was also on the committee planning the beatification, and I did most of the reporting for the congregation's publications on the beatification. I was pretty busy. It had to be done prior to the beatification so we had to have it to the printer in mid-summer [of 1998]."

She believes St. Theodora—who the Sisters of Providence prefer to call St. Mother Theodore—helped her research, write and edit the biography on time in addition to all of her other responsibilities.

"I felt inspired by her presence," Mitchell said. "I think she was working through me. I firmly believe that. I couldn't have done it otherwise, especially in six months."

While writing the book, Mitchell said she wanted people to come to know and love the French-born sister who founded the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in 1840. Today, Sisters of Providence minister in 20 states, the District of Columbia, Taiwan and China.

"I think my main goal at the time was that people would have an opportunity to know her because she was such a wonderful person," Mitchell said. "Thank heaven and thank Mother Theodore because she was such a gifted writer, and wrote hundreds of letters and kept journals. Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to know her the way we do today."

Mitchell said she never doubted that Blessed Mother Theodore would be canonized as a saint of God.

"The foreword and introductory chapters in the book have been updated because there have been changes in the congregation and the programs and ministries since 1998," she said. "The new part [of the book] is almost everything that has happened since the beatification."

She said the updated book also includes information about ways that people have honored St. Theodora, including St. Mother Theodore Guérin High School in the

Lafayette Diocese and the Providence Housing Corporation in West Terre Haute.

"There's also a chapter on some of the requests for prayers that the sisters have received as petitions in her name," she said. "They're from all over the world. And there's a chapter on the second miracle of the healing of Philip McCord's [right] eye that led to her canonization. The last chapter is about the canonization and includes events from the past few weeks."

Mitchell said she enjoyed reading Mother's Theodore's letters and journals.

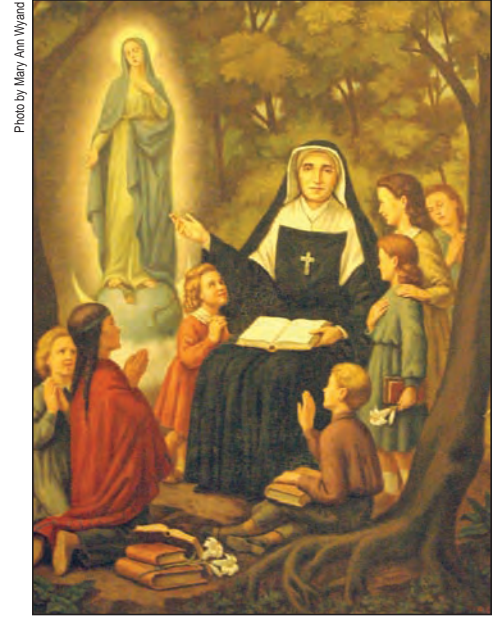
"She was an excellent writer, and one thing that makes her so easy to relate to is her sense of humor," Mitchell said. "She had health problems, but was still able to maintain her sense of hope and sense of humor and to do everything she did in her life."

St. Theodora can be "such a source of strength and inspiration for any woman," she said, "but I think especially for a woman trying to raise a family alone because in essence that's what she was doing with the congregation. She didn't have any money, she didn't have any support, and the sisters were often cold and hungry."

"They had to trust in God for everything and use their wits to survive," Mitchell said, "and heaven knows Mother Theodore had a lot of wit. She didn't know how to speak English [when she arrived in Indiana]. She wasn't a young woman. She was sick. But look what she accomplished because she believed she was doing what God wanted her to do."

Mitchell recommends that people who are in need of spiritual inspiration take time to read about St. Theodora's life and reflect on her journal entries excerpted in the book.

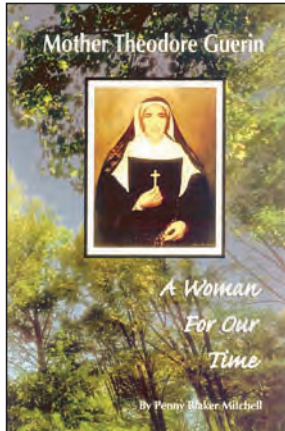
"Put yourself gently into the hands of Providence," St. Theodora advised her sisters. "... Well, my daughters, ours is a



This painting displayed at the motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods depicts St. Theodora Guérin teaching children with Our Lady of Providence looking down on them. An updated popular biography about St. Theodora's life and ministry will be available for sale in December at the Providence Center gift shop at the motherhouse or on the congregation's Web site.

preparation for the generation that will succeed us, and eminent good will be done this way by us. You may not live to see it, but you will have sown the seed, and your sisters will come to reap what will have been sown."

(Copies of St. Theodora's popular biography will be available in December at the Providence Center gift shop at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods or can be ordered online at the Sisters of Providence Web site at www.sistersofprovidence.org. The price had not been determined at press time.) †



A new edition of St. Theodora's biography goes on sale in December.

World Mission Sunday October 22, 2006 A Pontifical Mission Society



"a Eucharistic celebration for all the missions of the world"

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202