



“This Is the Truth”

Dear Friend in Christ,

One night in 1921 an unbelieving young Jewish philosopher casually began to browse the autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila and didn't put it down until she had read it straight through. At dawn she said, "This is the Truth," and resolved to become a Christian. Baptized in 1922, Edith Stein entered the Carmelite monastery in Cologne in 1933 as Sister Theresa Benedicta of the Cross. Five years later, with Nazi persecution of the Jews intensifying, Sister Theresa was transferred to a monastery in Holland for safety; but safety couldn't save her. On 2 August 1942 she was arrested and assigned to a cattle car full of Jews bound for Auschwitz. There, on 9 August 1942, St. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross was led into the gas chamber to die a martyr.



Each morning I look at her picture and read from a pamphlet of quotations from her writings. Here is one: "I know I am being sustained and herein lies my . . . security--not the conscious security of the man who is on firm ground with his own strength, but the . . . security of the child upheld by a strong arm--which in practice is a security not less reasonable. Could you call that child reasonable who would live in constant fear that its mother would let it fall? . . . [O]n the contrary, fear of falling into nothingness is foolish, unless I myself am the one who draws away from the arm that supports me."



In Christ Jesus,

Bishop Liam Cary

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