

**CROOKSTON  
BEATIFICATION AND CANONIZATION  
OF THE SERVANT OF GOD  
ANNELLA ZERVAS  
RELIGIOUS**

**E D I C T  
TO THE FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON**

At the request of the "Sr. Annella Zervas, OSB Guild, Inc.", Miss Amanda Zurface, JCL, Diocesan Postulator, has presented me with the Written Request, required by Canon Law, to initiate the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God Annella Zervas.

The Servant of God Sister Annella Zervas, OSB, was born Anna Cordelia Zervas on April 7, 1900, in Moorhead, Minnesota. She was the daughter of devout Catholic German and French-Canadian immigrants Hubert Henry Zervas and Emma (Levitte) Zervas. She was very attached to her family, which was a model Christian family. Annella exhibited a deep devotion to prayer and the Eucharist from a young age, showing a remarkable commitment to her Catholic faith. Annella felt a strong calling to consecrate her life to God at fifteen. In August 1915, she entered the Order of Saint Benedict at the convent of the Benedictine Sisters at St. Joseph, Minnesota. Having been given the name "Sr. Mary Annella, her mother remarked that there was no Saint Annella. Annella responded, "Then I shall have to be the first one!" Sister Annella's monastic life was filled with spiritual growth and deep happiness. She was known for her seriousness, musical talent, sense of humor, conscientiousness, popularity, artistic abilities, humble and childlike disposition, politeness, and kindness. About a year after her solemn profession, Sr. Annella was struck by a complex combination of afflictions, including severe stomach pain and a rare and painful skin disease, both of which were impossible to diagnose. She received many medical treatments and visited different hospitals, including the Mayo Clinic, where doctors deemed her condition incurable. Despite her severe physical suffering, which included violent chills, high temperatures, and painful attacks of itching, scratching, and weeping, her mental faculties always remained intact. There were different stages to her disease, each involving different levels of pain. She would beg to receive Holy Communion, which was her greatest consolation, showing her deep devotion. In between her physical attacks, Sr. Annella would do needlework, meditate on sacred scripture, and sing hymns and parts of vespers. Sr. Annella had no wish but to live as long as God wanted her to live. She remarked one day, "I am buying my ticket for eternity, and it is well worth the price." Sister Annella passed away on the Vigil of the Feast of the

Assumption, in the presence of the Sacramental Lord, at the age of twenty-six. [For more biographical information go to [sisterannella.org](http://sisterannella.org)]

I hereby request that you present to this Diocese of Crookston any pertinent information that you might have for or against the eventual Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God.

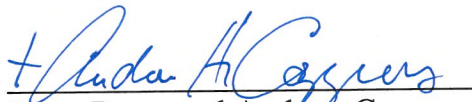
Any and all information, which will remain secret, may be sent by email to Miss Amanda Zurface, Postulator of the Cause, at [srannellazervas@gmail.com](mailto:srannellazervas@gmail.com) or by regular mail at 702 Summit, Crookston, MN 56716.

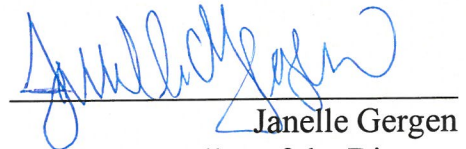
All information must be received no later than January 4, 2025.

Finally, we ask for your prayers that the Holy Spirit may guide this Cause according to the will of God.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Crookston on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December A.D. 2024.



  
Most Reverend Andrew Cozzens  
Bishop of Crookston

  
Janelle Gergen  
Chancellor of the Diocese

**NOTE:** This EDICT is to be posted through January 4, 2025, on the doors of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston, and on the doors St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Moorhead; as well as in the Diocese of Crookston communication "Flocknote"; and on the diocesan website [www.crookston.org](http://www.crookston.org).