

April 29, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

Photo by Tomas Williams from Pexels

AUDACIOUSLY HUMBLE

Feast of St. Catherine of Siena

By Julie Mussché

*"Be who God meant you to be
and you will set the world on fire."*

CATHERINE OF SIENA

Reflection

As mentioned in a previous reflection, I was Confirmed in Japan within a year of my First Communion. This was largely because the bishop only travelled so often to the outposts of the Western Pacific, or West Pac as it was known. Preparing for receiving the Sacraments, there was much to learn and practice. Guiding the whole thing was my Catechism teacher, a very tall and imposing woman who was not one to mess with. She no doubt thought me to be a bit too vociferous and active for such serious matters.

When it came to the selection of my patron saint, things escalated to a Battle Royale. After all, shouldn't I have been able to select my own patron saint? Of course, I was leaning toward the popular saint of the time, Thérèse of Lisieux.

She was sweet and accessible, and someone that I could relate to as she had been a bit of a terror as a child. Alas, the Catechism teacher prevailed, and my patron saint ended up being St. Catherine of Siena.

As I am writing this reflection, St. Catherine is looking down from the wall above my work area alongside St. Thomas Aquinas. Certainly, getting to know just how incredible and exceptional St. Catherine was, made me grateful that my Catechism teacher was so insistent. A humble and audacious follower of Jesus from an early age, she exemplified humility, courage, devotion, and a political acumen that impacted people at all levels, including Popes Gregory XI and Urban VI. She was a fierce defender of the church and a mediator extraordinaire. She has followed me throughout my life, and I suppose that it is no coincidence that I am an Associate of a Dominican order.

Today is the memorial of St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church. Happy Feast Day!



The Mystic Marriage of St. Catherine of Siena by Giovanni di Paolo
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For Pondering & Prayer

You are invited to consider and reflect on the following quotations from St. Catherine of Siena. Sit and spend some time with the one that speaks to your heart and spirit.

“Proclaim the truth and do not be silent through fear.”

“Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring.”

*“All the way to heaven is heaven,
because Jesus said, ‘I am the way.’”*

*“The soul is in God and God in the soul,
just as the fish is in the sea
and the sea in the fish.”*

“...the soul always fears until she arrives at true love.”

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