

A BLESSING OF GRATITUDE FOR SISTER TERESA KOTTURAN, SCN

Loving and gracious God, we gather in gratitude for Sister Teresa. We gather as imperfect people who call and encourage one another to love, to savor God's love, and to share it by cooperating in God's work of creation. And we pray for Teresa who has consistently called us to love and share God's love in the Vincentian/Setonian charism through her dedicated leadership as our NGO Representative. Teresa, we pray. . .

May rest find you always - all ways, Teresa, in the peaceful moments when all is still, In the quiet times when you pause and breathe.

May rest find you in the chaos of the moments to come, may rest bless you and strengthen you. May it fill your spirit and give you unearned joy.

May you find rest in the care of others, in the knowledge of your worth, the value of your service especially to the Sisters of Charity Federation in your faithful role as our NGO Representative.

We are grateful for your gifts of wisdom, understanding, courage, knowledge, right judgment, reverence, wonder and awe.

We give thanks for your patience as you challenged us in the words of St. Louise de Marillac, "Never take the attitude of merely getting a task done. Show the poor affection: serve them from the heart; inquire of them what they might need; speak to them gently and compassionately."

We give thanks to our Sisters of Charity of Nazareth who have generously shared you with the Federation since 2014. We thank you, Teresa, for your willingness to continue through the Covid pandemic with creativity and endless generosity.

May our God who gives rest, bless you, Teresa, and hold you close. And may you, in your very being, be a place of rest for others.

Let us raise our hands as we offer this blessing to Teresa and each other:

We wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

We wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

We wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

We wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

We wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

We wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

We wish enough "Hello's" to get you through the final "Goodbye.

Let us go forth in charity and in peace, in the name of our one and only God, Creative Love, Love Incarnate and Breath of Love, forever and ever. Amen.

-- adapted from Vincent DePaul, missioning Louise in 1629