

150th Day of Recollection for May

Theme: Leaving Germany and first beginnings

Sing: Leave All Things

Refrain: ***Leave all things; like Francis be free.
Leave all things, and come and follow me.***

In Germany God's orphans and poor had many needs.
There was no one to care for the sick, but Father Berger had a dream.
He envisioned Sisters of mercy, forever joyous and poor.
He heard the cry of Jesus, all apostles had known before.

Take note of the historical events and how quickly the sisters responded.
Note how the sisters traveled by ship and train and carriage.

Traveling Prayer: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the waters we sail on and on we sail.
Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place our trust in you. St. Francis, pray for us.
What and how do you think the early Sisters prayed traveling and when first in America?

Moving: Share a memory when you moved to a new mission, local community, or your room.
Was it your choice? What did you leave behind? Was it a good move? Why did you move?

Welcome: Our sisters from Germany were welcomed in New York City, Fort Wayne and Avilla.
Where were you welcomed? By whom? Tell of your personal experience.

Sing: Refrain: ***Leave all things; like Francis be free.
Leave all things, and come and follow me.***

Among the American immigrants, the Sisters fulfilled a need.
There were sick to be cared for and little ones to teach.
God guided them and blessed them, and so their order grew.
And through their early years, Christ's call they always knew.

Prayer: Consecration to the Sacred Heart: O most amiable Savior...

Sing: Refrain: ***Leave all things; like Francis be free.
Leave all things, and come and follow me.***

In the spirit of the early Sisters, our lives we strive to give.
We've learned from their joy in sacrifice, Christ's love through us must live.
In times of celebration, God's love draws us near;
and as he lives through each of us, again his voice we hear.

Litany of Thanks:

You, O God, are the source of all our good and the giver of all good gifts:

Response: **We give thanks and praise.**

- Father Wilhelm Berger, Founder of the Vision in Germany
- Mother M. Anastasia Bischler, Foundress in the United States, of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
- Father Dominic Duehmig, Pastor of St. Mary Church, Avilla, spiritual counselor, temporal advisor, confessor, religious instructor
- Bishop Dwenger of Fort Wayne Diocese
- Mr. Storey, owner of farm, who became instrumental for the first Motherhouse in Avilla, Indiana

Our Father...

Prayer: O most high God, your gifts of love are countless and your goodness infinite. We come before you with gratitude for your great kindness. Fill our hearts with genuine compassion s that we may freely share with others what we have so freely received. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sing: Glory and Praise to God by Dan Schutte

**Refrain: Glory and praise to our God
Who alone gives light to our days
Many are the blessings He bears
To those who trust in His ways**

We the daughters and sons of Him
Who built the valleys and plains
Praise the wonders our God has done
In every heart that sings

In His wisdom He strengthens us
Like gold that's tested in fire
Though the power of sin prevails
Our God is there to save