

A MOTHER VERONICA MOMENT



A Mother Veronica Moment is posted in its entirety for your reflection and prayer. The moment includes a text in the life of Mother Veronica and her prayer for the 16th of each month extending from October 16, 2021 through October 16, 2022.

The sources of the Mother Veronica Moment are taken from:

“Called to Trust” – written by S. Christen Shukwit

The excerpts in quotes are cited from Mother Veronica’s (imagined) journal.

The introductory statements are taken from both sources.

“Under the Shadow of the Almighty”

October 16

Arriving safely in New York, after a long ten day journey on the steamship, Ems, Mother Veronica and the three sisters were welcomed by Father Strzelecki. The first purchases Mother Veronica made in America were the cross and a statue of the Sacred Heart. It was in the shadow of the cross, Mother Veronica would plant the seed of her new community and her devotion to the Sacred Heart was to imbibe the lessons of sacrificial love for God and neighbor. In her great love of the Sacred Heart, Mother Veronica prayed ...

“O, Sacred Heart of Jesus, so precious to me, I entrust this mission, so new and filled with uncertainty, to Your care. Give me the gift of wisdom, and give each of us courage. Guide our actions and decisions. Bless our toil and labor. Bless the children we will teach and the parents we will meet. I place all my hope and confidence in You. Be our strength and consolation in this new land. I am Your humble servant who longs only to do Your will.”

November 16

Life in Mt. Carmel was difficult with all the adjustments that the Sisters had to make. When faced with the painful realization that the sisters may have to leave St. Joseph Parish in Mount Carmel, Mother Veronica prayed ...

“All is Yours, from You and for You. I have no hand in the arrangement of one single moment of my life. Your will is my only support. Though I can do nothing. I rely with a firm faith in Your presence. I trust in Your mercy and enfold myself in the arms of Your immense love and unlimited power. Amen.”

December 16

Mother Veronica was distraught when Father Jachimowicz, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, would not return the sisters formal documents that released them from papal enclosure in Poland. Mother Veronica continued to remind the sisters that ...

“This is a new world for us and God is calling us to do things we have not done before. We must find courage to take risks that we never had to take before, dear Sisters.”

January 16

Welcomed by Father Malusecki, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Reading, to teach the children in his parish, Mother Veronica told the Sisters ...

“It is clearly the hand of God at work in our lives. This is the Lord’s will. Surely, You have a plan for us, beloved Father, a plan beyond what we can see with human eyes. Once again, I place all of my questions and my anguish about this situation at Your feet, dear Sacred Heart of Jesus! All is Yours!”

February 16

Permission was given from the Mother Superior in Poland for Mother Veronica and the sisters to establish a new and permanent foundation in America. Grateful for this tremendous task, Mother Veronica prayed ...

“Please, Jesus, bless us with many young girls who wish to join us in our work here in Reading. And thank you, thank you...! This feels like a new beginning for us.”

March 16

Mother Veronica was filled with indescribable longing for a new home; a place where her eyes drifted towards the hill across the river, an ideal place for a Franciscan convent. Her quandary was...

“And where will we find the money for any type of home? From our Provident God, my heart and mind tell me. If this is truly your will, dear God, you will open doors for us. I entrusted this entire mission to Divine Providence and your Sacred Heart in the very beginning. I renew that trust now.

April 16

When the deal for the purchase of the estate at Ridgewood was closed, Mother Veronica was pleased that the Sisters would live in a house away from the hustle and bustle of the city, a place where all the sounds of nature surrounded them. At this time, Mother Veronica prayed ...

“I am not a woman versed in the language or culture of the United States; but You, O God, are calling me, challenging me to move forward with utmost faith in your Divine Providence, not only to build a Motherhouse, but also to build a new community here in the United States.”

May 16

Shocking news came when Father Malusecki, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Reading, announced that he had to close the school for a year so that a church could be built over the school building. The sisters would be without financial sustenance during that time. In this crisis, Mother Veronica was relying on God's power.

”Though, of ourselves, we can do nothing, we will rely with a firm hope in the power of God ... the will of God is our only support. We must trust, trust, trust.”

June 16

With the closing of St. Mary's School in Reading for the year, the main source of income for the sisters was lost. Mother Veronica tried to help the young girls and sisters to eke out a living during this difficult time. She continued to trust in God.

“I continue to place my faith and confidence in your patient and loving Heart, O Jesus. If I continue to do this, I will not lose courage. We live in some uncertainty now, but I believe with all my heart that a clear path will open up for us. We only need to remain faithful.”

July 16

A terrible ice storm at their new home in Ridgewood caused everything to be frozen which brought about many fallen trees and branches. Mother Veronica always reminded the sisters that it is God's way of bringing about practical and necessary improvements. To help keep the sisters' spirits up, she would say ...

"God turns all things to good.

August 16

Poverty was ever present at Ridgewood; the debt was heavy and cash income often completely lacking. Mother Veronica encouraged the sisters to live a frugal life and to cultivate the joy of possessing nothing except that which is eternal. She did not allow herself to become ruffled by the anxiety over the community's debts. Her frequent prayer was ...

"The Lord will provide. Have faith and confidence and all will be well. He desires that we have no more than we have at present. May His will be done. May the spirit of poverty accompany each of my Sisters wherever she may be."

September 16

It was a glorious day on August 12, 1907, the Feast of St. Clare, the day that the Motherhouse was dedicated. The sisters' good friend, Monsignor Bornemann, served as the representative of Archbishop Ryan. All thirty-one sisters gathered for this momentous event: fifteen professed sisters, ten novices, six postulants as well as the aspirants and orphans. All joined in for this celebration adding joy to this day.

On May 31, 1911, the statue of Jesus holding the cross bearing the words, "In Hoc Signo Vinces," was placed in front of the convent. Mother Veronica said that Jesus will greet every guest who comes to our Motherhouse and he will welcome each Sister home. As Mother Veronica stood to behold the beautiful statue, she prayed ...

"I rededicate my life to You – and the lives of my Sisters. May we have hearts willing to be broken for love."

October 16

Mother Hedwig, the newly elected Superior General, requested Mother Veronica to write something to the Sisters that would encourage them during their hard times in life. Mother Veronica was known by her sisters for her great faith, her deep hope, her warm charity, her humility and her submission in all things to the will of God. Reluctantly, Mother Veronica agreed to Mother Hedwig's request and wrote ...

“Beloved daughters of my heart and especially elect Spouses of the Lord Jesus: live in mutual charity, in peace, in unity. Radiate the warmth of deep love of the Sacred Heart wherever the holy will of God assigns you; may he and His Divine Will always hold the first place in your heart. My dearest ones, daughters of our Holy Father, St. Francis imitate his love for God and neighbor.”