

## LETTERS

To the Editor:

October 15, 2006, will be a day long remembered by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, and their many family members and friends. This was the day that the Holy Roman Catholic Church during a Mass of Canonization in St. Peter's Square officially declared Mother Theodore Guerin, the foundress of the Congregation, a saint. This journey to sainthood was a long one, for the cause was opened September 8, 1909, by Bishop Francis Silas Chatard, bishop of the (then) Diocese of Indianapolis.

With the canonization of Mother Theodore, more people have been visiting the motherhouse grounds to visit her interim shrine in the Church of the Immaculate Conception and to walk in her footsteps on this sacred ground. As the archivist of the Congregation, I would like to extend an invitation to those doing research on Mother Theodore, religious life, the early Catholic Church in Indiana, or other similar topics to visit our Archives.

Artifacts of Mother Theodore as well as her journals (both in French and English) are housed in the Archives. Some of her artifacts are on display in the Heritage Museum in Providence Center at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods as well as at the Indiana State Museum. Many of her artifacts can be viewed by visiting the Wabash Valley Visions and Voices Digital Memory Project's Web site at <http://visions.indstate.edu>.

The Saint Mother Theodore Guerin Cause Collection includes material on the procedures regarding her cause; various correspondence; Mother Mary Cecilia Bailly's (general superior successor to Mother Theodore) biography of Mother Theodore; and Sister Joseph Eleanor Ryan's *Positio*

regarding Mother Theodore's life and virtues as required by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Other collections include the Early Manuscript Collection of correspondence of early bishops, priests, Mother Theodore and other Sisters of Providence; the Olga Mae Schiemann Collection of the Joseph Bailly Family and Baillytown; the Rev. Joseph Somes Collection of early Indiana history and the former Diocese of Vincennes; the Rev. Albert Wickes Collection of early correspondence and research relative to the Rev. Simon Lalumiere, the first native priest of the former Diocese of Vincennes, and parish records of St. Joseph, Terre Haute; and the correspondence of Auguste Martin, first bishop of Natchitoches, La. (later the Diocese of Alexandria). There is also material available about the Congregation's mission to Asia which commenced in 1920.

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin—the first person declared a saint in the state of Indiana—and other Sisters of Providence have blessed us by leaving us a legacy that we can see, study, and appreciate. Our Archives, located in the lower level of Owens Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, is open to all who desire to learn more about this courageous woman and her daughters of the Woods. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We may be reached either by phone at 812-535-2880 or [archives@spsmw.org](mailto:archives@spsmw.org).

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Editor's note: A review notice of Julie Young's *A Belief in Providence: The Life of Saint Theodora Guerin* appears on page 459.