



THE HIGH PLAINS PREACHER

Welcome to the High Plains Preacher, stories about the Bible, high wind, fast horses, lack of moisture and other elements of life in the Texas Panhandle

St. Theodora, Pray for Us!

by Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer

Welcome to the High Plains Preacher, stories about the Bible, high wind, fast horses, lack of moisture and other elements of life in the Texas Panhandle. I'm Fr. Jim. Thanks for tuning in!

Not long ago, Fr. Stanley Rother, a priest who gave his life in 1981 for the community he served in Guatemala, was beatified in Oklahoma City. It is a wonderful thing to have such examples of courage and sanctity from places so close to home.

In 2006, Pope John Paul II canonized a Benedictine nun, Mother Theodora Guerin, who established schools and orphanages in the wilderness of what is now southern Indiana. Her feast day was last week and my niece who lives in Indiana sent a text to me and members of my family reminding us of St. Theodora's feast day. Most of my family lives in western Ohio and, as you might imagine, living close to the state line creates an atmosphere of rivalry and competition. Which means that the text message from my niece included the not-so-subtle reminder that Indiana has its own saint but Ohio does not.

"Today is St. Theodora's feast day," she wrote, then added, "Isn't Indiana great?" To which my nephew responded, "Maybe they should post billboards at the Indiana border saying, "St. Theodora, pray for Indiana."

I chimed in asking if they ever heard the saying, "God sends saints to people who need them *the most.*"

To which my nephew responded, "Let's change that sign to read, "St. Theodora, please pray for the poor souls who have to live in Indiana."

At this, my Indiana niece called in reinforcements and her husband responded, "St. Theodora can pray for us. You all need to pray for the Cincinnati Bengals."

Of course, this was all in good fun and it reminds us that, for us Catholics, the communion of saints is a lot like belonging to one big family. If we can joke with and tease one another, that means that we are free to support and pray for one another in matters both big and small.

We are all called to be saints. Being a saint is about seeing the world through the eyes of Christ. It is about seeing everyone as a brother and sister...whether they are from Indiana or Ohio, Texas or Oklahoma, Anglo or Hispanic, Asian or Canadian.

St. Theodora pray us! St. Pray for us all!