

her in a few words: she understood everything, felt everything and calmly took the remedies...

On 24 August, still calm, with a little knowledge, she received in the evening from the Chaplain all the Sacraments of the Church, the indulgences of the Institute, "in articulo mortis" of the various associations. During this sorrowful function, the two nieces departed. She was surrounded by all the desolate Sisters. This is the reason for my ignorance as to whether or not she received Communion, I know that in Italy, when speaking of the Last Sacraments, one means Confession, Communion and Extreme Unction. I am told that he followed all prayers gently. He quietly rendered his soul to God after a quarter of an hour, the sobs we heard warned us: it was 10.10 p.m. on the evening of 24 August 1826. The next day at seven o'clock in the morning, she was still on her deathbed...» ("The Last Three Years of Sr. Jeanne-Antida Thouret", Sr. Febronie Thouret, May 1894).

The Trochu adds: «She died at the age of sixty years, eight months and 24 days, far from the country of her birth where she would have wished to rest; but exile was now over: the eternal homeland opened its borders to her» (pag. 453).

Guide n. 1: In the silence of our hearts we praise and thank the Lord for the life of Jeanne Antida all spent for God and the poor, and we sing:

Laudate omnes gentes...

Guide n. 2: We conclude our prayer by making our own the sentiments of Jeanne Antida. Let us say together:

«...Jesus Christ has gathered us all together to love Him and serve Him. Let us love Him, then, let us love Him even unto death, and we shall be sure to love Him, to possess Him all, for ever, in Heaven».



In communion with all the Sisters of Charity scattered around the globe, we pray: **Our Father...**

Guide n. 1: Let us conclude our prayer meeting in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Amen!



Final song: to St. Jeanne Antide.



ARTISANS OF FRATERNITY
You are the vine,
and we are the branches!



Prayer for the month of August 2024

Guide n. 1: This month we commemorate the heavenly birth of St. Jeanne Antide, our Foundress. A small group of junior sisters will lead our prayer for this month. These young sisters live in Naples, in the house where, at the age of 61, Jeanne Antide experienced her second birth in God. Just as she was good shepherd for us, we too are called to be both the faithful flock of Christ and shepherds to one another, in our community life and in our mission.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

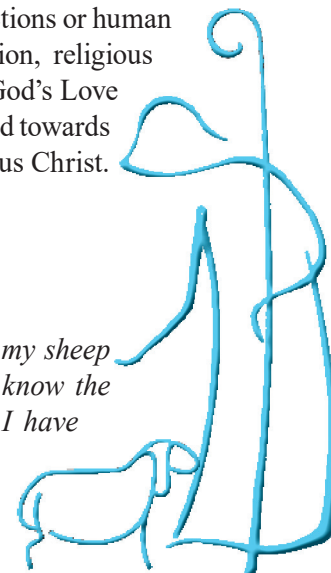
Guide n. 2: The love of Christ brought us together to become one, as disciples, so that like Him and through Him, in the Spirit, we might, down the centuries, respond to the love of the Father, while loving Him "with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength" and loving our neighbour "as ourselves". Among these disciples, those gathered in religious communities, men and women "of every nation, race, people and language", were and still are a particularly eloquent expression of this boundless Love. Born "not from the will of the flesh or blood", not from personal attractions or human reasons, but "from God", from a divine attraction, religious communities are a living sign of the primacy of God's Love that works its wonders, and of love towards God and towards one another as manifested and experienced by Jesus Christ.



Song.

1st Reader: Word of God: John 10, 14-16.

«I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd».



2nd Reader: «*I know my sheep...*». To be known by a person who truly loves us is a gift, it is a big grace. It is Jesus who knows us, and no one more than Him is able to have the right view of our whole life, of our every action, of our successes or failures, but also of the intentions of our actions and the way we have lived certain events. Let us put the story of our life in his hands, so that he may purify it with his merciful love. We have not “achieved” our destination, and we therefore need to be helped, guided, supported and defended on our personal path. If we trust Him, if we are obedient to His Word, we will understand how precious the gift of Love that He offers us is.

1st Reader: «*...and my sheep know Me*».

“To know”, is not just to have news about a person; to know means to enter into a special relationship and intimacy with that person. While this relationship and intimacy is secured by Jesus for us, it is not always so easy on our part towards Him. Therefore, Jesus exhorts us to maintain and live with Him harmoniously. If this is achieved, life blossoms and bears good fruit. When on the other hand, for various reasons we love this harmony, this “intimacy”, or when we fail to make every effort to recover it, then we run the risk of being attracted by the many false proposals of life that the devil continually sows on our paths.



2nd Reader: The presence of the Good Shepherd, who «*walks before them*». The gift of having Jesus as the Good Shepherd is also a precious reality because He is not only present, but also walks before His flock. This is a truth that we should always have in our hearts. This is the strength of the Christian, who does not walk alone, but feels reassured and guided by Jesus himself. It is important, that our minds and hearts are turned to Him, and not only turned to problems and circumstances, which earthly life unfortunately offer us. Jesus does not leave us alone. On our part, we must not lack the will to follow Him with the utmost trust, even when at times the climb becomes particularly difficult and when we are faced with real and burdensome obstacles to overcome.

Guide n. 1: Let us pray Psalm 26 together.

The Lord is my light and my salvation *
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life *
of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me *
to devour me,
it is my enemies and my foes *
who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, *
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me, *
even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the Lord, *
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord *
all the days of my life,

to gaze on the beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble *
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred *
tent and set me high upon a rock.

Glory be to the Father...

Guide n. 2: In this evening's prayer, we also wish to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Jeanne Antida, who always knew how to recognise the signs of the presence of Jesus the Good Shepherd at her side and to follow Him on the paths that He showed her. Truly she was able to repeat with confidence and filial abundance: «*even if I have to go through a dark valley, I will not fear because you are with me...*».

Let us listen to a few flashes of the last moments of Jeanne Antida's life through the account of Sr Febronia, her niece, who lived with her at Regina Coeli and was present at the time of her aunt's passing.

1st Reader: «*... on 15 August 1826, Jeanne Antida and her sisters took communion in the little church.*

Faced with her last illness, which began with violent colic followed by apoplexy, she was very calm, as she was throughout the course of the illness. Absorbed in a fictitious sleep, she answered the questions put to

