

Reflection Saturday 3rd Week Easter St Catherine of Siena 2023

St Catherine of Siena (1347 - 1380), seeking perfection, entered the Third Order of the Dominicans in her teens. In 1370 she was commanded by a vision to leave her secluded life and enter the public life of the world. She wrote letters to many major public figures and carried on a long correspondence with Pope Gregory XI, urging him to reform the clergy and the administration of the Papal States. She burned with the love of God and her neighbour. As an ambassador she brought peace and harmony between cities. She fought hard to defend the liberty and rights of the Popes and did much for the renewal of religious life. She also dictated books full of sound doctrine and spiritual inspiration. She died on 29th April 1380. In 1970 Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church.

It is possible that the psalm today is why Catherine was not only loyal to Christ but why she used all her ability to help and inspire others with the love of God that inspired her. Psalm 102 wants to make you cry out that not only does God have your back but God is the most lovable being there is. It makes you proud and honoured to be a follower and friend of Jesus knowing how much he loves and cares us. It is also obvious that the gospel also inspired Catherine who chose a form of hidden prayerful life but took up the yoke offered her and did more in her short life of 34 years than we could achieve in three lifetimes. It makes you want to shout Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!