



*We walk through Lent 2006  
With Blessed Sister Antonina  
Patroness of SSND SHALOM*

**First Week in Lent**

“One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!” Mt 4: 4b

The first Week of Lent is a call to conversion, a Gospel command. It calls us to silencing before God, silencing our personal aggression, abiding by prayer, offering help to others; all in preparation for the Kingdom of God.

Sister Antonina, loving people with all her life chose what was good; when experiencing evil, she answered with kindness; when experiencing pain, she answered with self-control; to lack of understanding, she answered with silence and prayer.

*With Sister Antonina, **we thank** God for those who build a culture of peace in the world.*

*We **ask** God's **pardon** for those who provoke lasting wars, who use violence, manipulation and acts of terrorism.*

***I will undertake** a concrete action toward reconciliation. I will try to rebuild some broken relationship.*

***Lord, make me an instrument of peace.***

**Second Week in Lent**

**From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: "This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him!"**

**Mt 17:5**

The second week of Lent calls us to perceive God's nearness and God's forgiveness; it calls us to simplicity, service, to noticing the poor, and to gratefulness to God.

Sister Antonina, loving the poor was able to express gratitude, to enjoy the nearness of God; she forgave, served, and noticed those in need.

*With Sister Antonina, **we are grateful** for each experience of God's presence, for God's forgiveness, for showing us the way to the poor.*

*We **ask pardon** for those who establish laws that lead to humiliation of persons, laws that preclude access to education, medical treatment, and one's own home.*

*I will improve **my relations** in community and at the place of my ministry.*

**Lord, make me a woman of the Gospel.**

### **Third Week in Lent**

**\*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die.\* Jn 11:25. 26**

The third week of Lent calls us to patience with the weaknesses of others, to kindness toward those who harm us, to avoid judging, anger, to courageously live the Gospel.

Sister Antonina, teacher-educator concerned about the everyday Christian attitude of young people, especially young women, was for the girls an example of a delicate kindness and of finding in others what was good. She was especially concerned for the weak ones.

*In prayer **we thank God** for good Christian families in which children grow in freedom and love.*

**We ask pardon** for those who neglect the morale of youth, especially female youth and use methods of destroying and violating their consciences.

*I will pray* before the Blessed Sacrament for women, remembering those women especially who are victims of abuse and victims of trafficking.

**Lord, I pray for the grace to be a woman of prayer and contemplation.**

### **Fourth Week in Lent**

**“God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life”. Jn 3:16**

In the fourth week of Lent we hear special calls concerning faith. Faith manifests itself in a new relationship to God the Father, in persistence in doing good, in giving witness. God loved the world and gave us Jesus, to save the world.

Sister Antonina, a joyful person, had a special relationship with God the Father, to Him she addressed her last words on Earth. She contemplated God in nature, in others, especially in the poor ones.

**We give thanks to God** for the gift of our faith and vocation, for our charism, for our SSND spirituality, and for the call to transformation.

***We ask pardon*** for all sins and negligences of consecrated persons to undertake a liberating dialogue; for their apathy to follow calls to conversion/transformation.

***I will ask*** God's pardon for my unfaithfulness, and I will consciously do a good deed in the spirit of my vowed commitment.

## **Fifth Week in Lent**

**Whoever wants to serve me, says the Lord, must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too. *Jn 12:26***

The fifth week of Lent is a call to come nearer to Jesus, to the truth about him, also the truth that is difficult to accept, "when I am lifted up from Earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

Sister Antonina, a prayerful prisoner became more and more like Jesus to those around her at the time when she lost "control" over all that happened to her and around her in the prison. Sister Antonina accepted physical pain, she prayed and forgave.

***This week we thank God*** for all who commit themselves to work for justice and integrity of creation.

***We ask pardon*** for actions against life, against children, youth, and family; we ask pardon for destroying the environment.

***I will give up*** something that I like in order to be in solidarity with those who are poor.

***Lord, make me one with you.***

## **Sixth Week in Lent**

**Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names. *Phil 2:8-9***

In the sixth week of Lent we experience the depth of Jesus' betrayal and abandonment, his loneliness and surrender to the Father. We experience Jesus' forgiveness of those who betrayed and crucified Him.

Sister Antonina, a martyr, united her sufferings with those of Jesus. She shared bread and herself; she was tortured and forgave those who tortured her. She gave of herself to the very end. We meet her again in the glory of the Father.

***We thank God*** for the gift of salvation and for every gift from Jesus, God and Man, for his life, sufferings, and death.

***We ask pardon*** for our indifference to the suffering and death of Jesus; for indifference to the cries of Earth and its peoples.

***I will lovingly kneel before the cross*** of Christ and pray for the gift to accept a difficulty that I am experiencing.

***Lord, make me an instrument of your sensitiveness to sufferings.***

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***This prayer was prepared by the Sisters of the Polish Province.***