



Sister Thea Bowman F.S.P.A., Ph D

"I bring my whole history, my traditions, my experience, my culture, my African-American song and dance and gesture and movement and teaching, and preaching and healing and responsibility as a gift to the Church." USCCB speak 1989

Sister Thea Bowman, the granddaughter of slaves, was born on December 29, 1937, in Yazoo City Mississippi. Her parents named her Bertha and raised her in the Methodist faith until at the age of nine when she was so impressed by the "olde folks" that she asked if she could become Catholic. She later went to college and then became the first African American to join the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Wis. Sr. Thea shared the message of God's love through a teaching career. After 16 years of teaching at the elementary, secondary and college levels, Sr. Thea Bowman was invited to be a special consultant for the Catholic Church. She gave presentations around the country aimed at bridging racial and cultural divisions. Blessed with extraordinary talent, she became a poet, a preacher, a master teacher, a vocalist, an evangelist and an African American catalyst. She combined her gifts of singing and gospel preaching, with prayers and storytelling. Sr. Thea Bowman was diagnosed with bone cancer in 1984. Yet, she continued her fight against the evils that drive people apart, from her wheel chair, until her death at age 53 in 1990. Sr. Thea Bowman said she prayed **"to live until I die – to live fully."** And that she did.

Sister The Bowman lived a Spirit-filled life! Let us pray:

Prayer for the Canonization of Sr. Thea Bowman

Ever loving God, who by your infinite goodness inflamed the heart of your servant and religious, Sister Thea Bowman with an ardent love for you and the People of God; a love expressed through her indomitable spirit, deep and abiding faith, dedicated teaching, exuberant singing, and unwavering witnessing of the joy of the Gospel.

Her prophetic witness continues to inspire us to share the Good News with those whom we encounter; most especially the poor, oppressed, and marginalized. May Sister Thea's life and legacy compel us to walk together, to pray together, and to remain together as missionary disciples ushering in the new evangelization for the Church we love.

Gracious God imbue us with the grace and perseverance that you gave your servant, Sister Thea. For in turbulent times of racial injustice, she sought equity, peace, and reconciliation. In times of intolerance and ignorance, she brought wisdom, awareness, unity, and charity. In times of pain, sickness, and suffering, she taught us how to live fully until called home to the land of promise. If it be your Will, O God, glorify our beloved Sister Thea, by granting the favor I now request through her intercession (mention your request), so that all may know of her goodness and holiness and may imitate her love for You and Your Church. We ask this through Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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To report any spiritual or physical favors granted through prayer in

Sister Thea's name, please write:

Sister Thea Bowman Canonization Cause

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