

March 19

Servant of God Thea Bowman

Hello, good people. May the Lord give you peace!

Today, in the Roman calendar, we mark the Feast of St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus. In our Franciscan calendar we observe the feast of the Servant of God: Thea Bowman. Thea Bowman was remarkable in so many ways. Born into a Methodist family, she converted with her parents' permission to the Catholic faith at the age of nine. Later she entered the Franciscan convent of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. After she earned her doctoral degree in English she taught at every level of education and was a renowned teacher.



She was an evangelist. She awakened in the hearts of all a profound awareness of the presence of God in our world. Her tool? Music. She performed, wrote and edited music, especially focusing on the music of the Black American Catholic. She was one of the editors of the first Black Catholic hymnal: *Lead Me, Guide Me*. So effective was her music that finishing her address to the US *Conference of Catholic Bishops*, the bishops stood, linked arms and sang: "We Shall Overcome".

We all have music in our souls. It opens up for us new avenues of thought and meditation. When did you last listen specifically to sacred music? We are blessed today to have a wealth of music available to us. When you have your ear buds in next, find some sacred music, maybe some of Thea's music and nourish your soul.

Let us pray.

Loving God, your music fills the universe and every day calls us to a beautiful life. Help us to keep our ears open to hear the melody of salvation that you continuously chant to us. Let us hear the comfort and challenge that plays throughout our world. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Servant of God, Thea Bowman is a friend of God, the company we welcome today.