

SPIRITUALITY OF



MOTHER
ELIZABETH

and



ST. BRIDGET

Spirituality of



The BRIDGETTINES

1.CONTEMPLATION ON THE WORD OF GOD – SOURCE OF BRIDGETTINE SPIRITUALITY

Though Maria was brought up in Lutheran faith she was not ashamed of the Catholic principles and with sincere practices of worship she would go ahead strengthened in her decision of consecrating herself for the good of the church.

She not only read and put into practice the Gospel, but also made wide use of it in her writings. She invited all to listen “to the voice of God”, to meditate on “the Holy books”, to learn from them how much God has loved and loves us. Maria Elizabeth as a child loved to read the Bible,; she formed the habit of reading it every day.



2. SILENCE AND REFLECTION

The Word of God is a pure and perennial source of our spiritual life. We listen to it and meditate on it daily to imprint in us the traits of the Incarnate Word.

We joyfully share the richness of the Word, finding in it inspiration for ongoing renewal, the principle which unifies the Community and orients apostolic creativity.

Silence and Reflection are two important elements of Bridgettine spirituality. They form part of prayer and community life. The daughters are encouraged to embrace silence with love and reflection with wisdom.

In deep silence and reflection St. Bridget wrote the “Angel’s Song of Praise”. It appears that the angels dictated the text!

3. HOSPITALITY AND RESPECT



HOSPITALITY IS ONE OF THE MAIN HALLMARKS OF BRIDGETTINES. HOW DID HOSPITALITY AND SEMI-CLOISTER COME TOGETHER? HOSPITALITY IS ONE OF THE MEANS OF EVANGELIZATION. IT IS NOT JUST HOSPITALITY ALONE. IT IS HOSPITALITY WITH RESPECT.

IT IS NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT IF HOSPITALITY IS GIVEN WITH RESPECT, IT BRINGS ABOUT UNITY AND EQUALITY.

4.FAMILY: FOUNDATION OF THEIR SPIRITUALITY



Bridget from her childhood lived in a deeply religious atmosphere. Ulf as a loving husband and an excellent father he endeavored to maintain decorum, harmony and the Christian spirit in the family. He cooperated with Bridget in brining up the children in Christian faith and love.

Thus the family was the foundation of their spirituality. So for every daughter of St. Bridget the family, the larger family(Congregation) and community must be the basis. They must live in a true family spirit and love.

Bridget's father opposed the idea of her entering a convent, and in 1316, when she was 13, she was wed to Ulf Gudmarsson, who was five years her senior and hailed from a similarly well-connected aristocratic family. Fortunately, her new husband was similarly devout in his faith, and it was a solid match that produced eight children.

She was a devoted mother to four sons and four daughters. He died soon afterward, in 1344, at the Alvastra monastery. By now in her early 40s, Bridget devoted herself to religious work in earnest. She became a practicing ascetic.

St. Bridget was filled with great love for her children before her departure from Sweden in 1349. She wept for them. But later she understood that her love for her children was unreasonable and she repented and put nothing before her love for Christ.
(Extrav.95)

5. DIALOGUE AND RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION

“We accept everything from the hands of the Father with simplicity and trust, knowing that in His designs each event of our life finds meaning”.

The contact Elizabeth had with so many sick Catholics and her thirst for truth helped to keep alive in her heart her search for the true flock of Christ. Through prayer, personal study and a deep daughterly devotion to the Mother of the Redeemer she moved forward.

6.NUPTIAL LOVE - NURTURING THEIR SPIRITUALITY



Bridget was the source of spirituality for Ulf.

She claimed to have experienced some 600 visions in all,. Known as *Revelationes coelestes* ("Celestial revelations"), they were widely read by the small number of men and women who were able to read the official language of the Church.

7. SPIRITUALITY OF STRIVING FOR UNITY AND PEACE

It is in this place that I want you to serve me.“

During and after the Second World War, the Servant of God performed great works of charity on behalf of the poor and those who suffered because of racial laws.

On 23 April 1957 she gave her blessing to the sisters and held her raised hands in a solemn gesture in which she murmured: "Go to Heaven with hands full of love and virtues“.

Elizabeth also visited the church and house of Saint Bridget of Sweden and came away with a deep and lasting impression: "she promoted a movement for peace that involved Catholics and non-Catholics; she multiplied her ecumenical endeavors and for many people who belonged to other religions or other Christian confessions, she was part of their journey towards the Catholic Church.

8. SPIRITUALITY OF RECONCILIATION



9. SPIRITUALITY OF LOVE AND SACRIFICE



Elizabeth wrote, “God’s love could only be answered by a love ready to suffer for His glory. Without hesitation I offered my life, my will to follow Him on the way of the cross”.
Elizabeth.

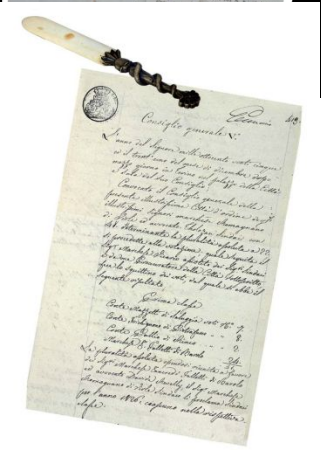
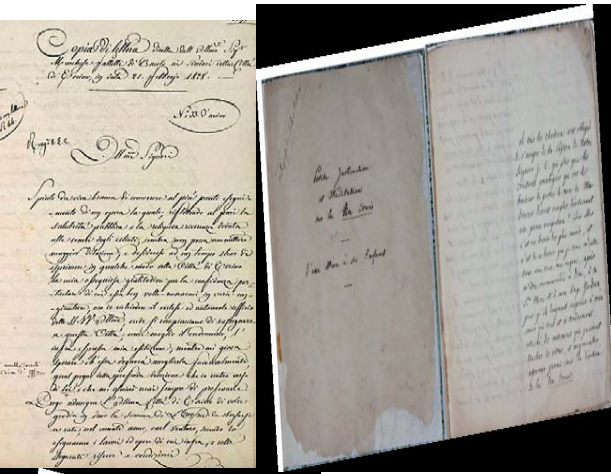
Morenita "waiting for Mother



Mother writes her intentions and the graces received



10. SPIRITUALITY OF 'LORD SHOW ME THE WAY'

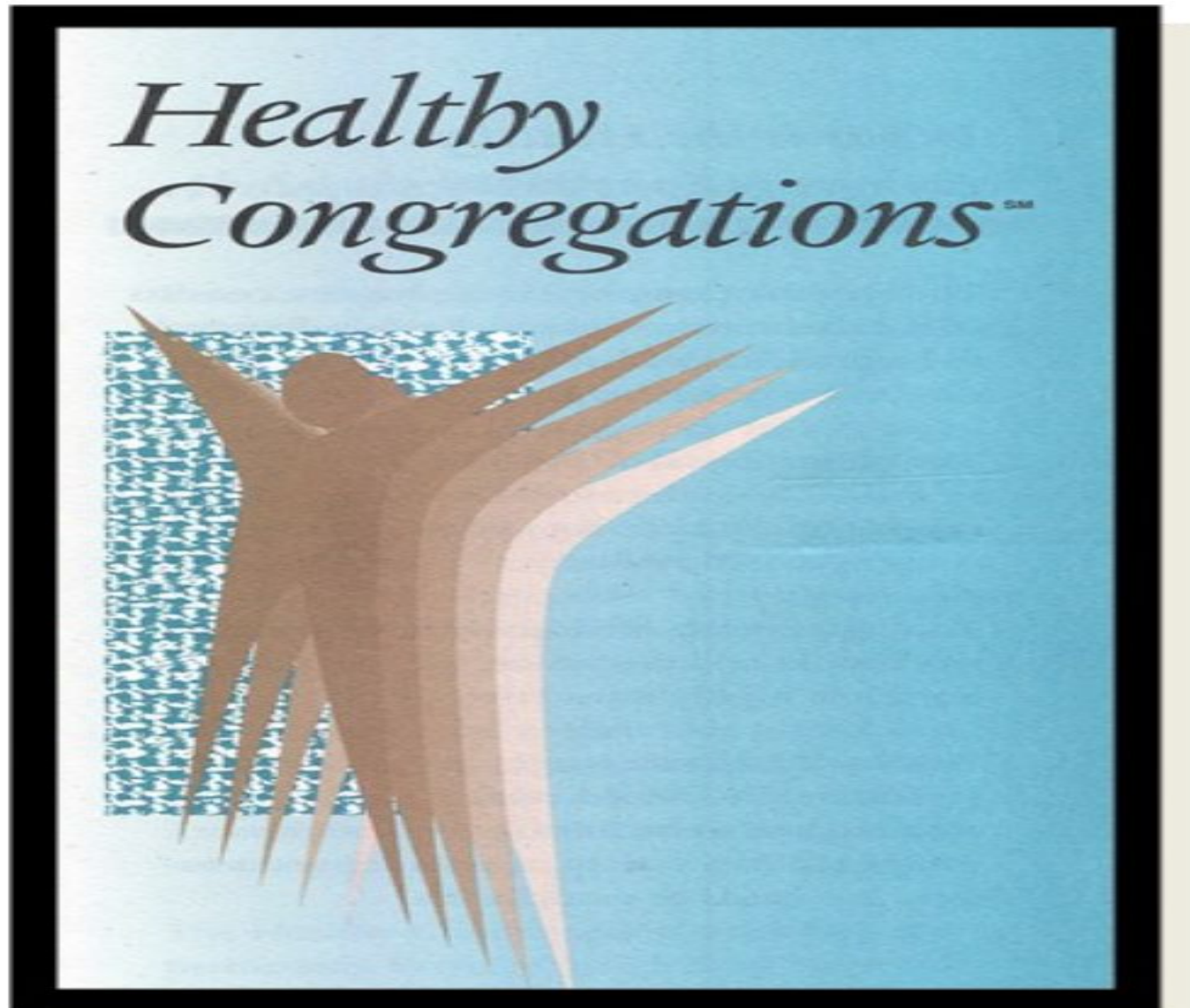


"Many often saw St. Bridget's face glowing with light". Her readiness to die for Christ was made manifest when on 23rd July 1373, Mother Bridget died with the words of Christ on the cross on her lips, "Father into thy hands I comment my spirit", Katrina tell us this.

Mother Elizabeth wrote:

"In an instant the love of God was poured over me. I understood that I could respond to that love only through sacrifice and a love prepared to suffer for His glory and for the Church. Without hesitation I offered Him my life, and my will to follow Him on the Way of the Cross."

11. CONGREGATIONS – FRUIT OF THEIR SPIRITUALITY



12. SPIRITUALITY OF BRIDGE BUILDING

Hesselblad became known as "the second Bridget". During World War II – and after – she performed many charitable works on behalf of the poor and those that suffered due to racial laws and also promoted a movement for peace that involved Christians and non-Christians; and she became part of their journey to faith and to the Church.

The war also saw her save the lives of Jews who would have otherwise perished in the Holocaust had it not been for her direct intervention.

FOUNDERS: GIFT TO THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

St. Bridget bemoans the state of Rome; the vanity of priests and popes.

St. Bridget sees “not only a wheat-field, she sees gardens full of Roses and lilies”.

The Lord called upon this prophetess to go herself out into the world and do his work. She was not only to persuade the pope to return to Rome and make peace between the Kings of France and England. (p.68 from the book “St. Bridget of Sweden”).

We entrust ourselves totally to the Providence of the Father and animated by the Holy Spirit, we unite ourselves to the offering of the Son for the salvation of humankind and for the unity of the church.

In this way through our life and actions we continue the mission of Jesus for the true happiness of our brothers and sisters.