

# Poems by Therese

## PRAYER OF AN ELDERLY SISTER

Come, take me, Lord - now take  
me to yourself. My life and all  
my being I consecrated for your sake.  
Having once responded to your call  
I have never known regret:  
for in you alone my happiness is set.

As gracious recompense  
your love illumines me.  
Through it, my heart, by preference,  
yields to you entirely.  
In exchange for worldly goods and gain  
you carry me through every pain. -

I can be joyful as each event  
calls me to seek and do your will.  
I find strength in obedient assent -  
both to use and sometimes still  
my vivacious blood - as I reach  
out in love to the children I teach.

Yet, one longing still remains  
in me . . . (persists like thirst) -  
It is this . . . (it claims  
all my being): . . . to be wholly immersed,  
my Savior Lord, in you, whose  
yoke is sweet. Would that I could lose

myself in you! Give without recall,  
with no certainty other than this:  
of being yours forever — all  
yours, yes! - Come, Lord, dismiss  
your servant to your heights; take my breath!  
Oh! Bid me come, radiant Lord of death!

I pray, too, for those, dear God,  
who regrettably cannot know  
such happiness; whose feet heavily trod  
the way of sin, even though  
they know your teachings; - for those who never find  
the courage to slash the evil bind

and declare: "Today I shall begin!  
I will listen, Lord, to you. - Yes,  
this very day I will break with sin  
and set my heart on true happiness,  
always keeping eternity in view . . .  
wherever I am, whatever I do."

For these, above all, God, I pray -  
Reveal to them that only in you  
is lasting joy; show them the way.  
Increase your grace; bring them through . . .  
Let none be lost, but give them victory  
and fullness of life eternally. -

No sorrow, no sadness  
is more tragic than sin — !  
We were born for happiness . . .  
(No less! No less!)  
But oh!  
How blindly we often choose to go  
our separate way, Lord, and oppose  
what you in love for us dispose! -