

## Morning Prayer on Bl. Helena's feast day (28<sup>th</sup> Nov.)



Wonderful is the morning! Glorious is the day! Life is starting a new! How blessed it is to open our eyes to the beauty of creation and the dawn. Indeed another day of loving and being loved by God. So let us honour the Triune God Amidst us this morning with Aarati as we sing, "May the Holy Triune God..."



- **Singing of Motto: May the Holy Triune God...**

God of salvation, we have gathered this morning with full of joy and gratitude in our hearts to praise and worship you. We thank you for the cool and gentle breeze, chanting of the birds and the rhythmic dance of the tress. Thank you for the world's beauty, the light of the sun, the color of the flowers. Today especially we the SSpS thank you Jesus for the life of our co- foundress Bl. Maria Helena Stollenwerk as we celebrate her feast day/ and birthday. She was born on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1852 in Rollesbroich, Germany. She always said "God alone can fill our hearts." During her childhood she longed for God and to be at the service of pagan children in China. She is a great example for us to live our life in fullness committing ourselves to God's will completely.

- **Hymn : Sing Along No.-365**
- **Story – (My beloved Bamboo)**

Once upon a time there was a wonderful garden among the fields. The master of the garden loved to stroll there in the midday sun. In his eyes a young bamboo was the most beautiful of all the trees and plants in the garden. The bamboo grew rapidly and form year to year it became stronger and more beautiful. It knew it was loved by its master and was his pride and joy.

One day the master came up to the bamboo and stood in front of it. The young tree inclined its magnificent crown in deep veneration. The master spoke: "**My dear Bamboo, I need you!**"

The bamboo was overjoyed. It was as though the great moment of its life had come and it replied softly: "**Master, I am ready, use me in whatever way you wish.**"

The master's voice became serious: "**In order to use you, I have to cut you!**"

The tree began to tremble: **“Cut me? The most beautiful tree in your garden? No, please, not that, please use me to give you pleasure, master, but do not cut me!”**

The master spoke more earnestly still: **“If I do not cut you, I cannot use you.”**

A great silence fell on the garden...The wind held its breath...Slowly the tree inclined its magnificent crown and said softly: **“Master, if you cannot use me unless you cut me, then....Do with me whatever you find fit.”**

But master continued: **“My beloved bamboo, I must also remove your leaves and branches! If I do not cut them off, I cannot use you.”**

The sun hid its face...A butterfly flew fearfully away...

The tree whispered: **“Cut to the quick.. Master, cut them off”**

Master continued, **“My beloved bamboo, I have to do more to you. I must cut you in two down your length and take out your heart. If I do not do that, I cannot make use of you!**

The tree whispered: **Master, then I will not be able to live any longer...How can I live without a heart?”**

Master replied: **“I have to cut the narrow out of you, otherwise I cannot use you.”**

Then the bamboo bowed down to the ground: **“Master, cut and divide me! I am ready.”**

### **Reflection on Mother Maria’s life.**

We heard in the story where the bamboo tree emptied itself as per the will of the master. It went through terrible pain and suffering but without complaining of anything bore it cheerfully. We see that Bl.Helena, our co-foundress too totally emptied herself, saying yes to God’s will for the good of our congregation. She grew beautifully and gracefully like the bamboo. She was cut down, stripped of her leaves, spilt open and she became a channel of life and love. She had plunged into the deepest ground of her being and opened herself to the stream of Life-giving water to flow through her. Yes, a beautiful channel designed by God to spread his love to all. Her surrender was both missionary and contemplative; it was both permeated by love and expressed in love. What she lived she expressed often in following words: **“To God the honor, to my neighbor the benefit and to myself the burden.”** Bl. Helena says, **“Our hearts should shout for joy every time when we think of our vocation”**. Yes, sisters let us be always grateful to God for our call to do His mission in this Congregation.

- Hymn
- Scripture reading

## Prayer of petition

1. Let us pray for our congregational Leader (name) and team, Provincial Leader (name) & team, Community Leader (name) and her team. Lord Jesus bless them with your discerning Spirit that they may guide the members of the congregation in the right direction and exercise servant leadership at all times.
2. Let us pray for all the missionaries who have committed themselves to spread your Gospel in different parts of the world, Lord Jesus, walk with them and assist them in all their struggles so that they may be able to give you to the people courageously.
3. Let us pray and ask God to bless us, give us the virtue of obedience and acceptance as that of Bl. Helena who said yes to the will of God expressed through the St. Arnold Janssen, even to the extent of getting transferred to the cloistered branch and begin life there as a novice.
4. We also pray for each one of us through the intercession of mo. Maria to have the great desire to see and experience God in our lives.
  - Dear Sisters, you are welcome to add your prayers and petitions.....
  - **Dear sisters I now invite you to go forward, pray through the intercession of Bl. Helena and pick a gift. (Quality of Bl.Helena will be written).**
  - **Soft music**
  - **Let us pray Blessed Helena's favorite prayer from Prayer book Page. 132**

## Concluding Prayer

**God Holy Spirit**, you inflamed the heart of your servant, Helena Stollenwerk, with apostolic zeal and love. She surrendered herself to you for the honors of the most Blessed Trinity and the spread of your reign.

As Servant of the Holy Spirit, we ask that through your help, we too may be ever faithful in seeking your will in all that we do. Give us- as you gave Blessed Helena- that inner integrity to hold everything in its rightful place.

- Creator Spirit
- Angelus

**Srs. Rosalia Ekka & Nirupama Soreng SSps**

