

Feast Day:

August 9

Patron: Loss of Parents, Converted Jews, Martyrs, World Youth Day

Edith Stein (religious name **Saint Teresa Benedicta a Cruce OCD**; also known as **Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross** or **Saint Edith Stein**; 12 October 1891 – 9 August 1942) was a German Jewish philosopher who converted to Catholicism and became a Discalced Carmelite nun. She is canonized as a martyr and saint of the Catholic Church, and she is one of six co-patron saints of Europe.

Edith Stein was born in Breslau (now Wrocław, Poland), Lower Silesia, into an observant Jewish family. She was the youngest of 11 children and was born on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Hebrew calendar, which combined to make her a favorite of her mother.^[5] She was a very



gifted child who enjoyed learning, in a home where her mother encouraged critical thinking, and she greatly admired her mother's strong religious faith. By her teenage years, however, Stein had become an agnostic.

Though her father died while she was young, her widowed mother was determined to give her children a thorough education and consequently sent Edith to study at the Schlesische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität in Breslau. Aged 19 Stein moved with her family to Breslau to a house bought by her mother, which she later described in her *Autobiography*. Today Edith Stein House hosts a museum dedicated to the history of the Stein family.

Moved by the tragedies of World War I, in 1915 she took lessons to become a nursing assistant and worked in an infectious diseases hospital. After completing her doctoral thesis at the University of

Freiburg in 1916, she obtained an assistantship there.

From reading the life of the reformer of the Carmelite Order, Saint Teresa of Ávila,^[4] Edith Stein was drawn to the Catholic faith. She was baptized on 1 January 1922 into the Catholic Church. At that point, she wanted to become a Discalced Carmelite nun but was dissuaded by her spiritual mentor, the abbot of Beuron Archabbey. She then taught at a Catholic school of education in Speyer. As a result of the requirement of an "Aryan certificate" for civil servants promulgated by the Nazi government in April 1933 as part of its Law for the Restoration of the Professional Civil Service, she had to quit her teaching position.



Edith Stein was admitted as a postulant to the Discalced Carmelite monastery in Cologne on 14 October, on the first vespers of the feast of Saint Teresa of Avila, and received the religious habit as a novice in April 1934, taking the religious name *Teresia*

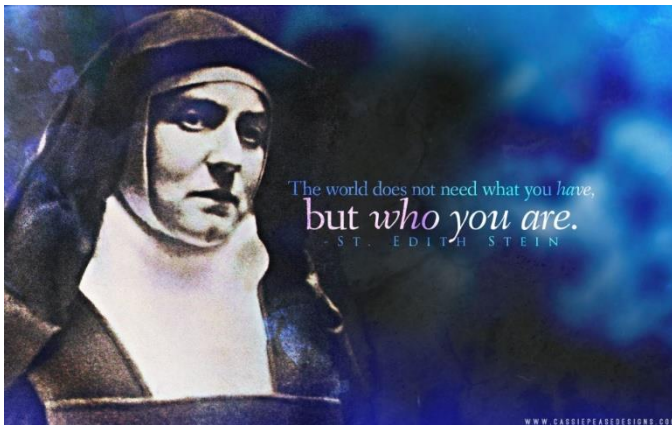
Benedicta a Cruce (Teresia in remembrance to Saint Teresa of Avila, Benedicta in honour of Saint Benedict of Nursia). She made her temporary vows on 21 April 1935, and her perpetual vows on 21 April 1938.

The same year, Teresa Benedicta a Cruce and her biological sister Rosa, by then also a convert and an extern (tertiary of the Order, who would handle the community's needs outside the monastery), were smuggled in the night to the Carmelite monastery in Echt, Netherlands, for their safety. Even prior to the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, Stein believed she would not survive the war, going so far as to write the Prioress to request her permission to "allow [Stein] to offer [her]self to the heart of Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement for true peace" and



"One can not desire freedom from the cross when one is especially chosen for the cross."
~ St. Benedicta of the Cross (a.k.a. Edith Stein)

made a will. Her fellow sisters would later recount how Stein began "quietly training herself for life in a concentration camp, by enduring cold and hunger" after the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands in May 1940. In response to the pastoral letter from the Dutch bishops on July 26, 1942, in which they picked up the treatment of the Jews by the Nazis as a central theme, all baptized Catholics of Jewish origin (according to police reports 244 people) were arrested by the Gestapo on the following Sunday, 2 August 1942. They were sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where they died in the gas chamber on 9 August 1942.



https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=179

Saint Edith Stein (Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross) Chaplet Prayers

On the Medal Pray

Dear Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Child of the Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur, Daughter of Abraham, Bride of Christ, Seeker of truth, Scholar of the Church, Handmaid of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Servant of the Suffering Servant, Presence of mercy, Victim of victimizer, Embracer of the Cross of Christ-like love, Martyr of Auschwitz, Imitator of Jesus, Conqueror of evil, Friend of God, Edith, Please pray for me. Please intercede for this petition of mine. **(Here mention your petition).** Amen.

Saint Edith Stein, Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Pray for us.

On the first bead of each set, Pray the Our Father

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

On the second bead of each set, Pray the Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou among women and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

On the third bead of each set, Pray the Glory Be

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; World without end. Amen

On the Crucifix Pray

Lord, God of our fathers, you brought St Teresa Benedicta to the fullness of the science of the Cross at the hour of her martyrdom. Fill us with the same knowledge; and, through her intercession, allow us always to seek after you, the supreme truth, to remain faithful until death to the covenant of love ratified in the blood of your Son for the salvation of all men and women. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://www.blessedbeadsrosaries.com/saint-edith-stein-saint-teresa-benedicta-of-the-cross>

