

April 6

Blessed Crescentia Hoess

Good day, good people! May the Lord give your peace!

The town mayor had to “call in a chit.” It was the only way Crescentia Hoess achieved admittance into the nearby Franciscan monastery. Formerly, the presentation of a dowry was expected. The gold Crescentia could offer was her glowing reputation. She was recognized as her town’s “little angel.”

After she was reluctantly admitted to the community, the inability to offer a substantial dowry grated on the nuns. Not only did they fail to welcome her, but they were mean spirited and treated her as if she was Cinderella. All of the menial jobs of the community were assigned to her. Her friendliness and forgiving nature was only met with further ridicule. Many labeled her a “witch.” No doubt she would have been expelled had it not been for the favor they owed the mayor.

In time, her fortunes remarkably changed. The death of the superior and the election of a new leader put her on a new trajectory. Over time, she was unanimously chosen to be the superior of the community. She became a living testimony to Christ’s words, “the last shall be first and the first shall be last.” Leaders, men and women of high honor, along with bishops and two cardinals came to visit her seeking her wisdom on concerns of the day.

Some things never change! Ostracism continues to be a terrible reaction to disliked people. Exclusion and rejection over the long haul can make people feel depressed and angry. Are there people in your family, in your work place, in your community that are intentionally shunned? Bullying is not just a child’s sport anymore. We now know that the damage it brings can last a lifetime.

Psychology was nowhere practiced in Crescentia Hoess’s day as a tool to wellness. It was the power and example of Christ that gave people the strength to endure their hurts and hardships. Reminding ourselves of Christ’s passion and all its ramifications can inspire us to forgive painful rebuffs and find blessed assurance in the love of God.

Let us pray.

Lord, when I feel lonely or rejected, give me the enduring confidence of Blessed Crescentia Hoess. Help me to hold on to the truth of your love. Heal me and shield my heart so that this hurt does not produce bitterness and distrust. Instead, restore my sense of belonging and my sense of being appreciated, loved and welcomed. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Blessed Crescentia Hoess is a friend of God, the company we keep today.

