

Happy Feast Days (October 2012)

This is the month of our patrons, and in a very real sense the month of our communal birth. A brief historical review ~ as we began a half-decade ago with a letter to then-Archbishop Raymond Burke. The letter was dated *October 1, 2007: Feast Day of Therese of Lisieux, Doctor of the Church & Patron of Women's Ordination*. Its purported purpose was to inform the archbishop of the impending ordinations of Ree Hudson and myself.

Of course, the archbishop already knew of our plans, but we wanted to make every effort to do things properly and above-board, even holding on to some hope of conciliatory interchange. So when we were summoned to "a meeting with the archbishop," we went, in fear and trembling, to the chancery offices.

It was not the archbishop who met with us that day ~ or any day. It was clear to us, when we left that meeting, that there would never be a conciliatory interchange with our Brother Raymond.

Our letter had also stated our intent to issue a press release on *October 15: Feast Day of Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church & Patron of Church Reform*. And so we did. Happily noted in that press release, along with information on the RCWP movement and on the upcoming ordination ceremony (at Central Reform Congregation on November 11), was notice of the first Mass for Therese of Divine Peace (in First Unitarian's Hope Chapel on December 1).

It soon became clear that the archbishop was consumed with stopping our ordinations at all costs. No one who stood in his way, even unintentionally, was left unscathed. But those who stood with us stood with integrity and have persevered. As have we. As has Therese of Divine Peace. As do those wonderful women of wisdom whose name we proudly honor ~ the saints Therese, our patrons.

Happy feast days, sisters and brothers!