

August 9th: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, patron saint of Europe

Gospel text (Mt 10,28-33): Jesus said to his apostles: «Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but have no power to kill the soul».



Illustration: Pili Piñero

Today we celebrate St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (1891-1942), an extraordinary daughter of Israel and - at the same time - daughter of Carmel. When she was young she stopped practicing the Jewish religion, but at the same time she sought the truth with energy and sincere interest. That is why she devoted herself to philosophy, the science of thought. The suffering and mystery of the Cross gradually permeated her life, until she was encouraged to give herself completely to Christ. Already incorporated to the Carmelite convent in Holland, the Nazi police arrested her on August 2, 1942. A week later she died in an Auschwitz gas chamber.

—During the Nazis persecution Edith Stein was — Catholic — faithful to the Crucified Lord, Jesus Christ. And at the same time - as a Jew - she persevered

united to her people.