SISTER ANNELLA GUILD

In Memory
100 YEARS
✝ 1926–2026 ✝

SUMMER & CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION | 2026

NEWSLETTER
of the Sister Annella Guild



President's Greeting

During Sister Annella's lifetime, the streets of Moorhead, Minnesota, saw their first automobiles. Commercial aviation was born, and for-profit radio stations were brought online. Today, we have self-driving cars; spacecrafts orbit the Earth at 17,500 miles per hour, and satellites beam media to devices smaller than wristwatches anywhere in the world. Everything is new under the sun.

We will soon commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Sister Annella. While everything around us changes, everything within us remains the same. Sin continues to plunge the world into war, people struggle to find community and meaning, and suffering causes many to question the presence of God or even the existence of God. From the Prophet Job to Sister Annella to you and me there is, indeed, nothing new under the sun.

There is no record of Sister Annella's aviation prowess or mathematical genius. There is a significant record of her trust in God and her joy amid suffering. While the world changes around us at the speed of light, the soul continues to thirst for the spring of eternal life: Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

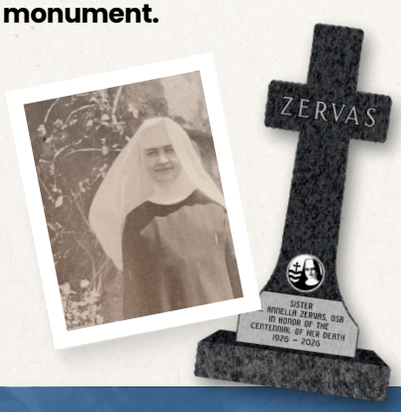
One of our efforts to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Sister Annella is to erect a five-foot granite cross near the family graves at Saint Joseph's Cemetery in Moorhead, MN. The graves of her parents, siblings, and other relatives are marked by footstones, which are hard to find. This cross will be a sign of the family graves for people who want to visit; it will stand as an everlasting memorial of the victory of Jesus Christ and of the hope of salvation for all who see it. The cross will stand as an invitation to the eternal banquet of heaven as the world passes on and away. **Join us on August 8 for the Centennial Celebration Day, which will start with the blessing of this new monument.**

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer! I look forward to celebrating together at the centennial festivities.

May God bless you,



Monsignor David Baumgartner, JCL
President and Episcopal Delegate
frdavid@sisterannella.org



CENTENNIAL Events

Learn more about these events by visiting us online at SisterAnnella.org/CentennialYear

Recollection Day
May 31, 2026

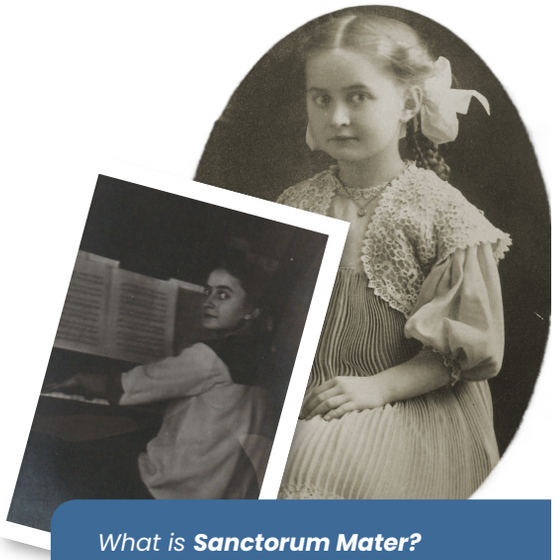
Centennial Celebration Day
August 8, 2026

Pilgrimage to Rome, Italy
November 15–24, 2026

Postulator Update

At the Guild, we are often asked what it is like spiritually to work on Sister Annella's cause. During a recent presentation at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Mentor, I shared that what has moved me most is Sister Annella's deep friendship with Jesus. Her relationship with Him was intimate and childlike. That posture of hers inspires others, as well. After the presentation, a local high school student told me she had been so touched by Sister Annella's life that she chose to write a book report on *Ticket for Eternity,* Sister Annella's official biography, and present it at her public school. Sister Annella is an example for every generation, and young people are encouraged by her example to pursue heroic virtue.

The work of the cause continues to move forward. We are conducting final witness interviews in the Diocese of Crookston, and the Historical Commission will gather in July to review its findings in light of *Sanctorum Mater.*



What is ***Sanctorum Mater?***

Sanctorum Mater is an instruction of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints that establishes the juridical norms by which diocesan inquiries into the holiness and reputation of a Servant of God are made.

We are also preparing a special commercial for the Sister Annella Guild about the life of Sister Annella, which will be unveiled at the centennial celebration on August 8 at St. Francis de Sales in Moorhead. During the celebration, we will hold the raffle drawing for the centennial pilgrimage to Rome. The Zervas family monument will also be unveiled and blessed as a tribute to the family who raised her and as a sign of welcome to the many pilgrims who continue to come to pray in thanksgving for Sister Annella and for the Zervas family, and pray also for her canonization.



Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we carry this important work forward together.

Blessings,



Amanda Zurface, JCL
Diocesan Postulator
amanda@sisterannella.org

MEDIA SPOTLIGHTS

The story of Annella Zervas: Examples of holiness needed close to home
By Kielce Gussie

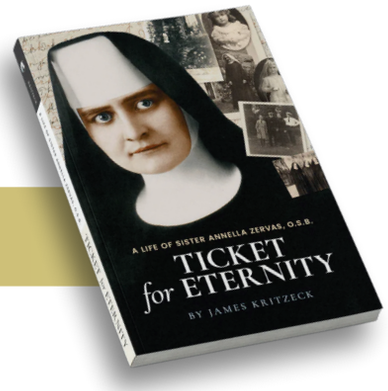
Interview of Patrick Norton: Champion of the Cause and Seer of Sister Annella
On Radio Maria with Kathie Duggan

Interview of Amanda Zurface, JCL: Postulator
On EWTN Radio with Teresa Tomeo

Interview of Monsignor Robert Sarno, JCD: Canonical Consultant
On Word on Fire with Dr. Tod Worner

MAY, JUNE AND JULY

Timeline of Sister Annella's Life



BASED ON *TICKET FOR ETERNITY*

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW: SisterAnnella.org/the-official-biography

June 2, 1916

On June 2, 1916, Sister Annella expressed her anticipation of receiving the habit of the Benedictine Order.

Book: Pg 36 | **Ebook:** Pg 38

June 17, 1918

On June 17, 1918, in the afternoon, Sister Annella received the habit of the Benedictine Order; the ceremony was conducted in the Sacred Heart Chapel at Saint Benedict's by the Most Reverend Joseph F. Busch, the Bishop of Saint Cloud.

Book: Pg 42 | **Ebook:** Pg 44

July 11, 1919

On July 11, 1919, the feast of the Solemnity of Saint Benedict, Sister Annella was admitted to triennial, or temporary vows, which ended her period of novitiate. This marked the commencement of a period of three years in regular convent work, at the close of which she would be admitted to simple perpetual, or final, vows.

Book: Pg 47 | **Ebook:** Pg 49

May 1923

The disease which was to take Sister Annella's life, after three years of intense suffering, seems to have made its first appearance in May of 1923.

Book: Pg 56 | **Ebook:** Pg 58

May 1924

Sister Annella writes to Sister Ignacia about her doctoring and health.

Book: Pg 63 | **Ebook:** Pg 65



SHOP THE SISTER ANNELLA GUILD STORE

Store.SisterAnnella.org/products/benedictine-bundle

On July 11, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Saint Benedict of Nursia, the 6th-century "Father of Western Monasticism," founder of the Benedictine Order, and author of *The Rule of Saint Benedict*, the rule embraced by Servant of God Annella Zervas, OSB.

To mark this special feast, we are pleased to offer a **collection centered on Saint Benedict**, Sister Annella's spiritual father. This bundle includes ***The Rule of Saint Benedict***, a **reflection by Father Robert Schreiner, STL,** on spiritual fatherhood and the importance of Saint Benedict's intercession for Sister Annella's cause, as well as a **Benedictine Rosary** and the **Novena to Saint Benedict** for the canonization of Servant of God Annella Zervas, OSB.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE MISSION
of the Sister Annella Guild



As we continue sharing the story of Servant of God Annella Zervas, OSB, and advancing her cause for canonization, we invite **individuals, businesses, and organizations to consider taking on one of these projects to get involved in the story and the work of the cause.** Your generosity will help bring her witness of faith to new audiences.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Help fund the events, materials, hospitality, and outreach for this special year-long celebration, culminating in the Centennial Mass and Reception on August 8.

Funding Goal: $25,000

ZERVAS FAMILY CROSS FOR THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Support the creation and presentation of the Zervas Family Cross, a special feature of the Centennial observance. A lead donor will have the opportunity to include a personal *in memoriam* inscription on the back of the cross.

Funding Goal: $15,000

DOCUMENTARY ON THE LIFE OF SERVANT OF GOD ANNELLA ZERVAS, OSB

Help bring Sister Annella's story to a broader audience through the production of a professional documentary that highlights her life, spirituality, suffering, and witness to the Catholic faith. This project has the potential to inspire millions of people and deepen awareness of her cause on a much larger scale.

Production Budget: $300,000 | **Marketing Budget:** $100,000

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Help create and distribute a youth faith formation program that shares the Catholic faith and introduces a new generation to the inspiring story of Servant of God Annella Zervas, OSB.

Funding Goal: $15,000

AUDIOBOOK PRODUCTION FOR *TICKET FOR ETERNITY* AND *AN APOSTLE OF SUFFERING IN OUR DAY*

Support the professional recording and production of audiobooks for the official biographies of Servant of God Annella Zervas, OSB, making these important works more accessible to a wider audience.

Funding Goal: $20,000

COMBINED PRINT EDITION OF *TICKET FOR ETERNITY* AND *AN APOSTLE OF SUFFERING IN OUR DAY*

Help publish a new single-volume print edition of these two important works in honor of the centennial year of the death of Servant of God Annella Zervas, OSB.

Funding Goal: $15,000

BOOKS AND PRAYER CARDS FOR PRIESTS, SEMINARIANS, AND RELIGIOUS IN MINNESOTA

Support a special mailing of *Ticket for Eternity* and a prayer card to every priest, seminarian, and religious sister in Minnesota—about 2,000 recipients in all. By sharing Sister Annella's story and inviting prayers for her canonization, this effort will help deepen awareness of her life and cause across the state.

Funding Goal: $35,000

PILGRIMAGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR PATRICK AND SANDY NORTON

Help provide a scholarship for Patrick and Sandy Norton, devoted leaders in promoting Sister Annella's story and cause, to attend the Sister Annella Guild's Centennial Pilgrimage to Rome, Italy.

Funding Goal: $12,500

WORK WITH US AS A SPONSOR

Thank you for supporting the work of the Sister Annella Guild and helping more people encounter the life, witness, and spirituality of Servant of God Annella Zervas, OSB.

To sponsor one of these special initiatives or learn more, please contact the Sister Annella Guild at amanda@sisterannella.org or (740) 953-0698.