

Nov. 4 welcome given by Sr. Judith Diltz, PHJC

Pope Francis reminded us in his homily **three weeks ago for the seven Saints** canonized in St Peter's Square that they each had **hearts unburdened by possessions, hearts that freely loved the Lord 100%, and they lived lives of joy.**

We **knew this** of Katherine Kasper whom we lovingly call Mother Mary. We recognize also the **closeness to the poor that Pope Francis noted about her, her passion to risk everything, her willingness to leave all behind** so that in her heart was room totally for her God. We have known these traits and other aspects of holiness in our Foundress.

And we know **we have more to learn of God through her.** We are delighted that you have joined us today in this Eucharistic celebration which honors her and marks our appreciation for the model she provides to us.

As we share our joy in following in her footsteps . . . As we share with the church and the world what we know of her **holiness**, we find that this canonization is also an **opportunity to look again**, to look anew, at her life and **to discover previously unseen gifts and virtues.** We are glad to do that.

But it's also a time for us in the PHJC congregation to listen to others, to listen to

each of you to share with us what you see in Katherina Kasper. Share with us **how you hear her speaking to you of God's presence and love and the call for each of us to make God more present in our world.**

Certainly her virtues of **simplicity, trust, compassion** are needed in a world so full of violence as we have witnessed among the **Jewish community of Pittsburg** and far too many other places, **her listening is needed as we each prepare to vote.** Her **love for the poor and immigrant** is a challenge to many in our society today.

So we ask you to **share what virtues you find in her that speak to be imitated.** Such sharing will **make this canonization truly a church-wide event.** Our mutual sharing of insights of St Katharina will plant seeds that **will grow into new ways of appreciating our new Saint and appreciating our great God who is the source of all Goodness.**

We pray together now with joy. We will enjoy a reception together following this. May these festivities of eucharist strengthen us to follow in her footsteps better each day.

As she herself said to us: **I would like to cherish no other wish than, that all of us would love our loving God as perfectly as we can with God's grace and our neighbor as ourselves.**