"IN TE DOMINE SPERAVI NON CONFUNDAR IN AETERNUM!"

SONG OF BL. MARIA DROSTE

Always this longing deep in me,  
my great love for you, Lord.  
You have called me, Joyfully I follow you.  
Your heart is beating in me.  
    In you, Lord, I trust,  
I know that you will not abandon me.
INTRODUCTION

Commentator: Good afternoon and welcome to the Solemn Closing Session of the Diocesan Inquiry into an alleged miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Maria Droste of the Divine Heart of Jesus, professed religious of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (also known as Good Shepherd Sisters).

On this day, we shall conclude the investigation that the Diocesan Tribunal of the Diocese of Rockville Centre began on the 15th of June 2013. Since then, several witnesses have been interviewed to give their testimonies regarding this alleged miracle. Today, all the depositions and documents gathered will be presented before all of us. Then, in the presence of the Diocesan Tribunal presided by His Excellency, the Most Reverend William F. Murphy, Bishop of Rockville Centre, these documents will be sealed in order to preserve their integrity and secrecy. At the end of the celebration, one part of these documents – the so-called Archetype – will be consigned to the Archives of the Diocese of Rockville Centre where they will remain and not be opened without the permission of the Holy Father himself. Two other parts – the so-called Transcript and the Public Copy – will be brought to the Congregation of Causes of Saints by the Carrier who will formally make his oath today. Once these documents are opened by the Congregation of Causes of Saints, the Roman phase of the Inquiry will begin.

A celebration such as this comes rarely in the life of a local Church. Indeed, all of us are blessed to be gathered here today and witness this event.
Let all arise and give glory to God as we join in singing the Gathering Hymn.

GATHERING HYMN: “LIKE A SHEPHERD”
(B. Dufford, SJ)

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock and gathers the lambs in his arms, holding them carefully close to his heart, leading them home. home, leading them home.

1. Say to the cities of Judah: Prepare the way of the Lord.
2. I myself will shepherd them; led them astray. The lost I will rescue and lift your voice: Jerusalem, here is your God.

1. Others have for others have gone to the mountain-top, the mountain-top, 2. heal their wounds and pasture them, giving them rest.
INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Father ✠
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

The grace and peace of God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

R. And with your Spirit.

PRESENTATION OF THE ACTS

Commentator: Please remain standing as Ms. Rosemary W. Horgan, Notary of the Tribunal, formally presents the Acts of the Inquiry to His Excellency.

The Notary reads the following:

Your Excellency,

It is my honor to present to all of you the Acts of the Diocesan Inquiry of the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Maria Droste of the Divine Heart of Jesus.

In total, ___ pages will be sealed today and sent to the Holy See and the Archives of the Diocese of Rockville Centre in accordance with the Norms and Instructions of the Congregation of Causes of Saints.

May God bless us and all our works. Amen.
INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Commentator: His Excellency will now lead us in invoking the Holy Spirit.

The Bishop chants the first line of “Veni Creator Spiritus”
ris Virtú-te fírmans pérpe-tí. 5. Hóstem repéllas lóngi-us,
Pacémque dónes pró-tinus : Ductó-re sic te praévi-o, Vi-
témus ómne nóxi-um. 6. Per te sci- ámus da Pátrim, No-
scámus atque Fí-li-um, Téque utri- úsque Spí-ritum Cre-
dámus ómni témpore. 7. Dé-o Pátri sit gló-ri-a, Et Fí-
li-o, qui a mórtu-is Surréxít, ac Parácli-to, In saecu-ló-
rum saécu-la. Amen.
REPORT OF THE EPISCOPAL DELEGATE

Commentator: Let us all be seated.

The Most Rev. Msgr. Kenneth E. Boccafola, Episcopal Delegate of the Tribunal, will now deliver a report to His Excellency Bishop William F. Murphy regarding the work accomplished by the Tribunal since their installation in June 2013.

The Episcopal Delegate stands and reads his report on the “iter” of the cause and its progress from its start to finish. He sits down after reading his report. At the end of the Episcopal Delegate’s report, the Commentator reads.

OATH OF THE TRIBUNAL OFFICIALS

Commentator: The Officials of the Tribunal will now make their prescribed oaths. Before God and the Assembly, they will swear that they have fulfilled the duties entrusted to them and have kept the secret of their office.

I would like to request His Excellency William F. Murphy, Bishop of Rockville Centre, to make his prescribed oath.

His Excellency stands and touches his pectoral cross with one hand and places the other on the Book of the Gospel.
After reading his Oath, his Excellency sits down and signs the Oath.
After this is done, the Commentator continues.

**Commentator:** I would like to request the Most Rev. Msgr. Kenneth E. Boccafola, Episcopal Delegate of the Tribunal, to make his prescribed oath.

The Episcopal Delegate stands and puts his right hand above his heart and places his left hand on the Book of the Gospel.
After reading his Oath, he sits down and signs the Oath.
After this is done, the Commentator continues.

**Commentator:** I would like to request Msgr. Thomas E. Molloy, Promoter of Justice of the Tribunal, to make his prescribed oath.

The Promoter of Justice stands and puts his right hand above his heart and places his left hand on the Book of the Gospel.
After reading his Oath, he sits down and signs the Oath.
After this is done, the Commentator continues.
**Commentator:** I would like to request Ms. Rosemary W. Horgan, Notary of the Tribunal, to make her prescribed oath.

The Notary stands, raises one hand and places the other on the Book of the Gospel.  
After reading her Oath, she sits down and signs the Oath.  
After this is done, the Commentator continues.

**Commentator:** I would like to request Dr. Marie-Alberte Boursiquot, Medical Expert of the Tribunal, to make her prescribed oath.

The Medical Expert stands, raises one hand and places the other on the Book of the Gospel.  
After reading his Oath, she sits down and signs the Oath.  
After this is done, the Commentator continues.

**Commentator:** I would like to request Dr. Waldery Hilgeman, Postulator of the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Maria Droste, to make his prescribed oath.

The Postulator stands, raises one hand and places the other on the Book of the Gospel.  
After reading his Oath, he sits down and signs the Oath.  
After this is done, the Commentator continues.
Commentator: I would like to request Bro. Reginald Cruz, Vice-Postulator of the Cause of Canonization of the Blessed Maria Droste, to make his prescribed oath.

The Vice-Postulator stands, raises one hand and places the other on the Book of the Gospel. After reading his Oath, he sits down and signs the Oath. After this is done, the Commentator continues.

DECLARATION OF THE PROMOTER OF JUSTICE

Commentator: Msgr. Thomas E. Molloy, Promoter of Justice, will now make a declaration regarding the integrity and authenticity of the Acts of the Diocesan Inquiry.

The Promoter of Justice stands and reads the following:

I, Msgr. Thomas E. Molloy, Promoter of Justice, by virtue of my mandate, declare that, after examining the original Acts of the Diocesan Inquiry into an alleged miracle attributed to the intercession of BLESSED MARIA DROSTE OF THE DIVINE HEART OF JESUS, as well as their two copies, I have found nothing to doubt or question their integrity and authenticity.

After making the declaration, the Promoter of Justice sits down. The Commentator then continues.
SEALING AND BLESSING OF THE ACTS OF THE INQUIRY

**Commentator:** Dr. Waldery Hilgeman and Bro. Reginald Cruz, Postulators of the Cause of Blessed Maria, will now place a red ribbon, symbolizing the blood of Christ, to bind the Acts of the Inquiry. Following an age-old tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, the ribbons will be secured with red wax. The seal of the Postulation Office will then be affixed on the red wax by His Excellency William F. Murphy.

Once the seals are affixed, no one would be allowed henceforth to open the Acts of the Inquiry unless they obtain the permission to do so directly from the Holy See.

The Postulators tightly wrap the Acts of the Inquiry with a red ribbon. They then pour red wax on two ends of the ribbon. Finally, His Excellency fixes the seal of the Postulation Office. After the sealing is done, the Commentator reads.

**Commentator:** His Excellency will now bless the Acts of the Diocesan Inquiry. Let us all stand.

His Excellency reads the following blessing:
Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, bless these Acts of the Diocesan Inquiry of the Canonization Cause of Your handmaid, Blessed Maria Droste of the Divine Heart of Jesus.

Bless those who have labored tirelessly to bring this work to fruition.

Grant that these Acts may proclaim the wonders You have done through Your faithful Servant so that her life may be a model for all whom You have called to be Your own.

We ask all these through Christ Our Lord.

R. Amen.

At the end of the Blessing, the Commentator says:

Commentator: Let us all sit down and listen to some words from His Excellency, Bishop William F. Murphy.
SERMON

The Assembly sits as the Bishop gives his homily. At the end of the Sermon, His Excellency sits down.

APPOINTMENT AND OATH OF THE CARRIER

Commentator: His Excellency will now read the Decree appointing the Carrier of the Acts of the Diocesan Inquiry. His task is to ensure that they arrive safely and intact at the Congregation of Causes of Saints.

His Excellency stands and reads the Decree of Appointment of the Carrier.

I hereby appoint Dr. Waldery Hilgeman, Postulator of the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Maria Droste of the Divine Heart of Jesus, as Carrier, with the duty of handing over to the Congregation of Causes of Saints the Acts of the Diocesan Inquiry, as set forth in the norms and instructions established by the said dicastery.

Given at Rockville Centre on the 31st day of October in the year of Our Lord two thousand and thirteen.

Afterward, His Excellency sits down. After this is done, the Commentator reads.
**Commentator:** I would like to request Dr. Waldery Hilgeman to make his prescribed oath as Carrier of the Acts of the Inquiry.

The Carrier stands, raises one hand and places the other on the Book of the Gospel.

After reading his Oath, he sits down and signs the Oath. After this is done, the Commentator continues.

**READING OF THE ACTS OF THE CLOSING SESSION**

**Commentator:** I would now like to call Ms. Rosemary W. Horgan, Notary, to read the Acts of this Closing Session and to establish the Public Record.

The Notary stands and reads the Acts of the Closing Session. After this is done, the Commentator continues.

**SIGNING OF THE ACTS OF THE CLOSING SESSION**

**Commentator:** The Officials will now affix their signatures on the Acts of the Closing Session.

With joy and thanksgiving, let us now all stand and sing the Magnificat.
1. My soul proclaims the Lord my God. My spirit
2. All nations now will share my joy; For gifts God
3. For those who fear the Holy One, God’s mercy
4. God fills the hungry with good things, And sends the
5. Then let all nations praise our God, The Father

1. sings God’s praise, Who looks on me, and
2. has out-poured, This lowly one has
3. will not die. Whose strong right arm puts
4. rich away; The promise made to
5. and the Son, The Spirit blest, who

1. lifts me up, That gladness fills my days.
2. been made great. I magnify the Lord.
3. down the proud, And lifts the lowly high.
4. Abraham is filled to endless day.
5. lives in us, While endless ages run.

After the Magnificat, the Commentator continues.
WORDS OF THANKS FROM THE PETITIONER

Commentator: Let us now listen to Sr. Brigid Lawlor, Congregational Leader of the Good Shepherd Sisters and Petitioner of the Cause.

The Petitioner delivers her remarks.

SOLEMN BLESSING

Commentator: Let us all stand for the Final Blessing to be given by His Excellency Bishop William F. Murphy.

The Bishop says the following prayer over the Assembly.

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

R. Now and forever.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.
May the peace of God,  
which is beyond all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God  
and of his son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Amen

May almighty God bless you, ✡ the Father,  
✡ and the Son, ✡ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

The Bishop then concludes:

Go in the peace of Christ.

R. Thanks be to God.

A hymn expressing joy can be sung to conclude the Solemn Closing Session.
CLOSING HYMN: “Joyful, Joyful” verses 1,2

Acc #282 / CPC2 #366

HYMN TO JOY

1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore thee, God of glo-ry,
   2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heav’n re-
   3. Thou art giv-ing and for-giv-ing, Ev-er bless-ing,
   4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus Which the morn-ing

1. Lord of love; Hearts un-fold like flow’rs be-fore thee,
   2. flect thy rays, Stars and an-gels sing a-round thee,
   3. ev-er blest, Well-spring of the joy of liv-ing,
   4. stars be-gan; Love di-vine is reign-ing o’er us,

1. O-p’ning to the sun a-bove. Melt the clouds of
   2. Cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise; Field and for-est,
   3. O-cean depth of hap-py rest! Thou our Fa-ther,
   4. Bind-ing all with-in its span. Ev-er sing-ing,

1. sin and sad-ness; Drive the dark of doubt a-way;
   2. vale and moun-tain, Flow’ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
   3. Christ our broth-er, All who live in love are thine;
   4. march we on-ward, Vic-tors in the midst of strife;

1. Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
   2. Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, Call us to re-joice in thee.
   3. Teach us how to love each oth-er, Lift us to the joy di-vine.
   4. Joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward, In the tri-umph song of life.

Maria Droste zu Vischering was born on September 8, 1863 in Munster, Germany, one of seven children of Count and Countess Clement Droste zu Vischering. At 15 she went to a convent school run by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart at Riedenburg. There, she developed an even greater love for the Sacred Heart. At 18 she felt called to the religious life and eight years later she joined the Good Shepherd Sisters. Her religious name was Maria of the Divine Heart. She had a winning way with the girls she served and attributed all this to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She said: "When you are appealing to His Divine Heart for a soul, He will never refuse you, although sometimes He demands much prayer, sacrifice and suffering."

In 1894 she was missioned to Portugal where she became Superior of the convent in Oporto. It was there that Christ appeared to her in visions, making known to her that He wanted the Pope to consecrate the whole universe to His Sacred Heart. She made known this special message to Pope Leo XIII in June 1898 and in January 1899. In May that year he wrote his encyclical Annum Sacrum which included the desired consecration to the Sacred Heart. He also mentioned in the Encyclical that he had been cured of a dangerous life-threatening disease. (Privately, he attributed this cure to the intercession of Sister Maria.) After a solemn Triduum held throughout the world, Pope Leo consecrated the whole human race to the Heart of Jesus on Sunday, June 11th, 1899, adding: "This is the greatest act of my pontificate!"

Sister Maria had told her confessor: "My mission on earth will be completed as soon as the consecration is done." For the past three years she had suffered much from a spinal disease which had led to a gradual paralysis. On June 8, the day before the Solemn Triduum was to begin, Sister Maria personally received two copies of the Encyclical sent by the Holy Father. She died later that day at the age of 35, after the recitation of First Vespers of the Feast of the Sacred Heart. She was beatified by Pope Paul VI on November 1, 1975.