



## Catherine Spalding

Let us enter into stillness as we begin this prayer of praise and thanksgiving for Catherine Spalding, our foundress.

**MUSIC:** Breath of God  
By: Emu Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIP1PusCcQY>

### INTRODUCTION :

Catherine Spalding emerged as a remarkable and quietly influential figure in early 19th-century American religious history. Attributing much of her success to prayer and the blessings of God, Catherine's unwavering trust in Providence, coupled with her prophetic insight, set her apart. In her era, she was hailed as an angel of mercy and a messenger of peace, adept at reconciling differences and promoting harmony. Her legendary motherly care and benevolence towards students and orphans defined her legacy.

Catherine's enduring reputation as a community leader was built on a unique blend of warmth, compassion, and firmness. Her skillful balance with the authority of the indefatigable was truly exceptional. Over a span of forty-five years, she steered the

young Congregation with a keen awareness of the pressing needs of her time. Today, we consider ourselves blessed to have Catherine as our exemplar and patroness.

***(SILENT REFLECTION)***

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy show them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*Matthew 5:3-10*

**SCN Constitutions #42:**

Like Catherine Spalding, we strive to actualize the Beatitudes in our times, realizing that whatever the manner of our individual response to the gospel message, we also share in the mission of the whole church, supported and enriched by one another.

***(SILENT REFLECTION)***

**REFLECTION QUESTION:**

- What does it mean to you to strive to actualize the Beatitudes in our times, akin to the spirit of Catherine Spalding?



**RESPONSE: God of Love, make us one in heart and mind.**

- Loving God, we express gratitude for Catherine Spalding and her courageous response to your call, guiding the fledgling Community with pioneering leadership both within the Congregation and the local church.
- Loving God, we are grateful for Catherine's profound trust in your providence, enduring even in the face of challenging circumstances.
- Loving God, we express gratitude for how Catherine exemplified her feminine dignity and exercised freedom of choice, especially in the face of disapproval from the ecclesiastical authorities of her era.
- Dear God, we thank you for Catherine's gentle and loving care to orphans, the impoverished, and all those in need of her compassionate attention.
- Loving God, we express gratitude for Catherine's inspiring demonstration of genuine sisterly love and forgiveness within the Community.
- Dear God, we are grateful for your providential care over our Congregation over the past two hundred and eleven years, as well as for all our collaborative partners in ministry across the United States, India, Nepal, Botswana, Belize, and Kenya.



**HYMN:** O Daughters of Catherine (or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVACqZ4Jduo>)  
By: Olive Pinto, SCN

**O daughters of Catherine, simple and free'  
Pioneer women we are called to be,  
for the love of Christ urges us on.**

1. In faith, O Jesus, we respond with joy  
to your call today and ever.  
Spending ourselves for you faithfully,  
guide us in living your life in or world.
2. On you we center our lives, O God,  
and led by your Spirit we search for you.  
Deeply hidden in our midst are you,  
in the joys and struggles of our broken world.
3. Like you, O Jesus, who walked this earth,  
and served with compassion your people,  
teach us to share as Mary did,  
all that we are and have in the world.
4. In joy and hope ever trusting in you,  
as Catherine did in frontier days,  
walking with her in your footsteps, O Christ,  
faithful in word and deed in your world.

## **CLOSING PRAYER (ALL):**

Loving God, the enduring example of Mother Catherine and our early Sisters emboldens us to venture into the unknown, placing our trust in Your Providence. We acknowledge the faithful stewardship of many Sisters and Associates who have carried forth the Charity charism into our world. With hearts full of gratitude for our heritage, we pray that you grant us the courage to perpetuate the legacy of Charity in the present day. May we actively seek innovative ways to be prophetic, relevant witnesses to Gospel values, remaining open to new approaches in fulfilling the work You call us to do.

In the spirit of Catherine Spalding, we pray, Amen.



*Prayer Service By: Rita Puthenkalam, SCN*