

BIOGRAPHY

Hedwig was illustrious for her royal birth, being the maternal aunt of St Elisabeth, daughter of the King of Hungary. At the age of twelve she was given in marriage to Henry, duke of Poland, and brought up the children of their marriage in the fear of God. In order to devote herself more closely to the service of God, she persuaded her husband to agree to a vow of continence for both of them. Upon the death of her husband she took the Cistercian habit in the monastery of Trebnitz, where she was intent on contemplation and took her delight in continually assisting at Divine Office and at Mass. Adorned with the highest virtue, most severe penance, wise counsel and candour of soul, she became an example of highest religious perfection. She was accustomed to make herself subject to all and to undertake the most menial tasks, ministering to the poor on her knees, and washing and kissing the feet of lepers. Her wonderful patience and constancy of soul were shown especially at the death of Henry, the duke of Silesia, her son, who was killed in battle by the Tatars. She was famous for miracles, especially after her death, and was enrolled among the Saints by Clement IV.

ST. HEDWIG WIDOW

FEAST DAY:
16 OCTOBER

COLLECT

○ God, Who didst teach blessed Hedwig to renounce the pomps of this world, that, with her whole heart, she might follow the humble way of Thy Cross: grant that, through her merits and example, we may learn to trample under foot the perishable delights of this world, and by cleaving to Thy Cross surmount all obstacles: Who Livest and Reignest in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.
Amen

PRAYER

Pray for us, we beseech thee, O St. Hedwig. Remember us in thy compassion before the Lord. Help us to be more devout in our daily prayers and in hearing Holy Mass. Grant us also to do penance worthy of the Cross, and to be wise in our actions. Be not far from us, O holy Widow, but be near us to help us in our daily struggles. Give us a religious heart like unto thine own, and pray to the Mother of God that we may be worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen

Pray for us, St. Hedwig.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.