

**"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." --
Matthew 28:20**



Easter blessings! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

A Call to Nursing: Hanna Helena Chrzanowska

Later this month, Hanna Helena Chrzanowska becomes the latest person to be beatified by the Catholic Church (that's one step before formal canonization). Hanna was born in 1902 in Warsaw, Poland, and ministered to those wounded in the Bolshevik Revolution before going to nursing school, first in her hometown, then in France. World War II hit home for Hanna; her father died in a concentration camp, and her brother was killed by Soviet soldiers. Despite her personal grief, Hanna (by then a Benedictine oblate) worked with refugees and others. After the war, she honed her skills through a nursing scholarship to the United States. Hanna died of cancer in 1973.

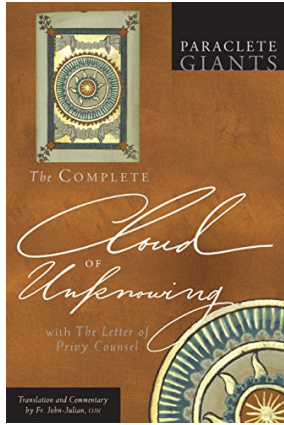
Hanna's story reminds me that in times of tragedy and despair, picking up our cross and following is what we're called to do. That's not to say there's anything wrong with some weeping and mourning. But I am inspired that amid her grief, Hanna continued to embrace the nursing skill with which she had been blessed to help others. I'll be blogging a bit more about her at the end of the month.



To check out earlier blogs on beatified and canonized women, check out the [Wednesday's Woman](#) section of my website. You also may enjoy the 600+ thumbnail sketches in my [Saints Database](#).

On the Nightstand: *The Cloud of Unknowing*

This is one of those books I've been meaning to read for a while, but now it's moved to the top of the pile. *The Cloud of Unknowing's* author (fittingly, unknown) wrote about contemplative prayer in the latter half of the fourteenth century. The introduction includes this rich passage: "One must come to the point of saying, 'God, I don't really know a single thing about you or what you are like or anything except that I know there is a 'you' and I love you and long to be one with you.'"



It's tempting to try to put God into a little box and "expect" Him to act and react as we think He should. I'm looking forward to learning more about this centuries-old approach to replace some of that thinking.

What's on your nightstand?

April Showers of His Love

Another fun month ahead! My sister who lives in the Chicago area will be here later this week, visiting me and the sister with whom I live. It'll be the first time in nine years the three of us have had some sisters-only time, and I'm really looking forward to that.

I'm finishing up *Finding Your Woman of Worth*, which will likely be released about this time next year. I'm very grateful to the publisher for working with me on the manuscript submission date. In addition, I'm humbled to have been asked to contribute to a *Living Faith* women's daily devotional, and will be working on my assignments for that endeavor.

I'll be back in my beloved Shenandoah Valley in the middle of the month as I sponsor a friend on a [Cursillo Weekend](#).

And, finally, I'll be involved in some prep meetings for this fall's [Future with Hope Women's](#) conference for Catholic women over 40. The conference will be Oct. 12-13 at my wonderful parish, St. Agnes in Arlington, VA. More on that as things progress.



May April bring you many showers of the Lord's love! --Melanie

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