Boleslava (Bolesława) Lament was born on 3 July 1862 in Łowicz. Deeply moved by the lack of unity in the Church, she founded the Congregation of Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family in 1905 in Mogilev, Belarus. Its particular aim was to work toward the unity of Christians and to strengthen Catholics’ faith. She was known for her love for the Eucharist and the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, as well as her apostolic and ecumenical zeal. She died in Białystok on 29 January 1946.

Common of Virgins.

OFFICE OF READINGS

SECOND READING

From John Paul II’s homily in Białystok on the day of beatification of Blessed Boleslava Lament

(AAS 84 [1992] 362-363)

That they may be one

During this mass, we remember, in a special way, one person who guarded the ways of the Eternal Wisdom and found the life and grace with God.

Forty five years ago, the God’s Servant, Boleslava Lament died here in Białystok. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family. Today, she became one of the blessed in the church. This daughter of the Łowicz city was called by God to establish Catholic dorms and other places of spiritual care in a distant Petersburg, Mogilev, and Żytnomierz. After World War I, she sent her sisters to serve God in Pinsk, Białystok, and Vilnius. Many times, her work was challenged by countless obstacles. Twice, she lived through the total loss of everything the congregation had. Often, she and her sisters would go hungry and homeless. In those times, she would gain her strength through the prayer taken from Ignatius’s spirituality, “Everything for the greater Glory of God.” The last five years of her life, she spent being paralyzed, but also patient and prayerful.

During her whole life, Blessed Boleslava was extremely compassionate toward poor people. She was moved with the fate of those discriminated by society, addicts, and even criminals.

She was holding herself responsible for the whole church and felt the lack of the unity in Christ's church. In her own life, Boleslava experienced various differences between nationalities and religions. Political situation at that time would deepen even more those differences. Therefore, the main goal of her personal as well as her congregation’s life was to work toward the unity of the church. She desired the same unity as Jesus when He prayed during the Last Supper: “Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one.”

Mother Lament worked toward the unity of the church especially in places where the division was extremely visible. She was not afraid of trying anything that would strengthen the faith and ignite the love of God in the hearts of people. She would do everything to bring together Catholics and orthodox Christians. She used to say: “...may we all love one another and become one...” Mother Boleslava felt that the work toward the unity of the Church, especially on Soviet Union territories, was a special grace of Divine Providence. Her tireless service for the unity of the Church proved that, long before the Vatican Council II, Boleslava became the ecumenical servant in her everyday life through love.
Starting today, God’s people in Poland and places of Boleslava’s apostolic work may call for an intercession of Blessed Boleslava in the liturgical prayer of the Church. They should also follow the example of her life.\(^7\)

**RESPONSORY** John 17:11, 23, 22

Jesus said: Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me.
– So that they may be one and that the world may know that you sent me.

I have given them the glory you gave me.
– So that they may be one and that the world may know that you sent me.

**CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God, who for the greater glory of your Name made blessed Boleslava Maria, devoting her life to the work of Christian unity, give us an example of lively faith. Through her intercession look kindly upon the sheepfold of your Son, and make us all, sanctified by one baptism, unite in true faith and brotherly love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
– Amen.
