

"I think the difference between me and some people is that I'm content to do my little bit. Sometimes people think they have to do big things in order to make change. But if each one would light a candle we'd have a tremendous light."

Thea was born in Mississippi and attended a school run by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA). At nine years old she converted to Catholicism and six years later became the first Black sister in the community.

The Second Vatican Council's liturgical renewal inspired Thea to bring her spiritual heritage into her Catholic faith. She became a highly acclaimed evangelizer, teacher, writer, and singer who shared the joy of the Gospel and her rich cultural heritage throughout the nation. One of her most famous speeches was to the USCCB in 1989 on being Black and Catholic. She died at the age of 52 of breast cancer. She was declared a Servant of God in 2018.



Sister Thea's album, **Songs of My People**, was recorded in 1988. Click the music notes to listen on YouTube.

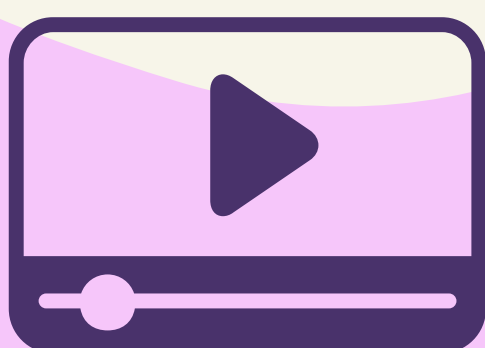


SISTER THEA BOWMAN

SINGER, SISTER, SPEAKER

December 29, 1937 - March 30, 1991

A documentary was released in 2022 called, "**Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood.**" You can watch the one-hour documentary by clicking the link below.



DID YOU KNOW?

Sister Thea was the daughter of a doctor and a teacher. She was the granddaughter of Enslaved People. Their legacy gave her strength throughout her life.