



I can change things. I can make things happen.



Born and raised in Mississippi, Thea Bowman grew up in a Protestant home. Though her grandfather was born a slave, her parents were strong-willed and resilient. They both followed their dreams! Her father became a doctor and her mother, a teacher.

Thea's teachers, who were Sisters, inspired her interest in the Catholic faith. She converted to Catholicism at 9-years-old! Not too long after, she joined the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Wisconsin at the age of 15. Thea was appalled by the racism she saw in the Church and worked vigorously as an advocate for racial harmony. She traveled all around the country sharing her gifts of storytelling and music to help break down racial barriers. Her vibrant and passionate personality inspired and opened the eyes of many people.

In 1984, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Despite her illness, she continued her inspiring work, even as she grew weaker. She died in 1989 at the age of 52, but is currently on the path to sainthood!

In the spirit of Sister Thea, pray that we might stand against prejudice and racial injustice wherever we see it, and pray that Sister Thea may one day be canonized a saint!

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ACTIVIST ADVOCATE CANCER FRANCISCAN PASSIONATE RACISM
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STORYTELLER
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