

Edith Stein: 1891 – 1942

Breslau – Birkenau

Breslau was the capital of the Prussian province of Silesia, Germany.
(present-day Wrocław, Poland)

Birkenau was one of the three camps at Auschwitz, Poland.

her spiritual journey and her legacy

“I am a Prussian citizen
and a Jewess.”

(1916 Curriculum-vitae)

I am “... a child of the
Jewish people ... also ...
a child of the Catholic
Church ...”

(1933 letter to Pope Pius XI)

“I am a Catholic.”

(1942 to a transit camp officer)



Edith Stein at 35 years old. Photo taken during the 1926 summer vacation in Breslau for a student teacher at St Magdalena’s College, a Dominican girls’ school and teachers’ college in Speyer, where Edith taught for eight years. [Neyer, *Edith Stein: Her Life in Photos and Documents*, (ICS, 1999), page 39.]



Family Portrait 1893: Edith was the youngest of eleven children - seven surviving to adulthood. Back Row L-R: Paul, Elfriede (Frieda), Siegfried, Else, Arno. Front Row L-R: Rosa, Auguste, Edith, Erna. Siegfried had already died when this photo was taken but the family had his passport photo inserted into the picture, to complete the family portrait.

Edith's family



Auguste Stein: Edith's mother. The fourth of fifteen Courant children.



Sisters: Erna left, Edith right. 20 months difference in age.



Family Photo 1911: Edith (front row, with light-coloured coat) on an outing with family and friends.

[for more on the family history see
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Courant-10>]

Edith's friends



Edmund Husserl: 'the master' the father of phenomenology.



Göttingen phenomenologists in 1912:

L-R: Johannes Hering, Friedrich Neumann, **Adolf Reinach**, **Hans Lipps**, **Hans-Theodor Conrad**, **Max Scheler**, Alexandre Koyré, Siegfried Hamburger, **Hedwig (Hattie) Martius**, Rudolf Clemens, Gustav Hübener, Alfred Von Sybel. Later **Fritz Kaufmann**, **Roman Ingarden** and Edith Stein in 1913.



Recreation: during the five months Edith served as a nurse with the Red Cross in 1915.

Adolf and Anna Reinach: Adolf was killed serving at the Western Front in 1917.



[for further reading see this excellent article by Ben Gibbs on *The Conversion of Edith Stein* <http://www.carmelite.org/documents/Heritage/gibbsconversionofstein.pdf>]

*The Lord is my light and my salvation –
whom shall I fear? (Psalm 27:1)*



Profession: Edith Stein became Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross at Cologne Carmel, on 15 April 1934. She was 43 years old. Her souvenir card for the occasion included the first verse of Psalm 27(26). [Neyer, page 57.]



Neue Synagoge, Breslau: Auguste's regular place of worship, the original home of Reform Judaism (destroyed by fire on *Kristallnacht*, 9 Nov 1938.) [Gibbs, on-line reference given on previous page.]



Sisters: With Rosa who was baptised after their mother died in 1936. She took refuge in Carmel (Echt) in 1940 and also died in Auschwitz.



1942: Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross at Echt Carmel.

Read what Edith's niece has to say after the canonization. <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/1999/02/13/edith-steins-niece-what-her-canonization-means-catholic-jewish-dialogue>

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