

Saint Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa (1910-1997) was a Roman Catholic nun, who devoted her life to serving the poor and destitute around the world. She spent many years in Calcutta, India where she founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious congregation devoted to helping those in great need. In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and has become a symbol of charitable selfless work. She was beatified in 2003, the first step on the path to sainthood, within the Catholic church.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta's Miracles and Canonization

In 2002, the Vatican recognized a miracle involving an Indian woman named Monica Besra, who said she was cured of an abdominal tumor through Mother Teresa's intercession on the one-year anniversary of her death in 1998. She was beatified (declared in heaven) as "Blessed Teresa of Calcutta" on October 19, 2003 by Pope John Paul II.



On December 17, 2015, Pope Francis issued a decree that recognized a second miracle attributed to Mother Teresa, clearing the way for her to be canonized as a saint of the Roman Catholic Church. The second miracle involved the healing of Marcilio Andrino, a Brazilian man who was diagnosed with a viral brain infection and lapsed into a coma. His wife, family and friends prayed to Mother Teresa, and when the man was brought to the operating room for emergency surgery, he woke up without pain and was cured of his symptoms, according to a statement from the Missionaries of Charity Father.

Mother Teresa was canonized as a saint on September 4, 2016, a day before the 19th anniversary of her death. Pope Francis led the canonization mass, which was held in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. Tens of thousands of Catholics and pilgrims from around the world attended the canonization to celebrate the woman who had been called "the saint of the gutters" during her lifetime because of her charitable work with the poor.

"After due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother bishops, we declare and define Blessed Teresa of Calcutta to be a saint, and we enroll her among the saints, decreeing that she is to be venerated as such by the whole church," Pope Francis said in Latin.

The Pope spoke about Mother Teresa's life of service in the homily. "Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded," he said. "She bowed down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity. She made her voice heard before the powers of this world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime of poverty they created."

He also told the faithful to follow her example and practice compassion. "Mercy was the salt which gave flavor to her work, it was the light which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering," he said, adding. "May she be your model of holiness."

"It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving." Mother Teresa

Short Biography Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa was born, 1910, in Skopje, capital of the Republic of Macedonia. Little is known about her early life, but at a young age she felt a calling to be a nun and serve through helping the poor. At the age of 18 she was given permission to join a group of nuns in Ireland. After a few months of training, with the Sisters of Loreto, she was then given permission to travel to India. She took her formal religious vows in 1931, and chose to be named after St Therese of Lisieux – the patron saint of missionaries.

On her arrival in India, she began by working as a teacher, however the widespread poverty of Calcutta made a deep impression on her; and this led to her starting a new order called “The Missionaries of Charity”. The primary objective of this mission was to look after people, who nobody else was prepared to look after. Mother Teresa felt that serving others was a key principle of the teachings of Jesus Christ. She often mentioned the saying of Jesus,

“Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do it to me.”

As Mother Teresa said herself:

“Love cannot remain by itself — it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service .” – Mother Teresa

She experienced two particularly traumatic periods in Calcutta. The first was the Bengal famine of 1943 and the second was the Hindu/Muslim violence in 1946 – before the partition of India. In 1948, she left the convent to live full time amongst the poorest of Calcutta. She chose to wear a white Indian Sari, with blue trimmings – out of respect for the traditional Indian dress. For many years, Mother Teresa and a small band of fellow nuns survived on minimal income and food, often having to beg for funds. But, slowly her efforts with the poorest were noted and appreciated by the local community and Indian politicians.

In 1952, she opened her first home for the dying, which allowed people to die with dignity. Mother Teresa often spent time with those who were dying. Some have criticised the lack of proper medical attention, and refusal to give painkillers. But, others say that it afforded many neglected people the opportunity to die knowing someone cared.

Over time the work grew. Missions were started overseas, and by 2013, there are 700 missions operating in over 130 countries. The scope of their work also expanded to include orphanages, and hospices for those with terminal illness.

“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa never sought to convert those of another faith. Those in her dying homes were given the religious rites appropriate to their faith. However, she had a very firm Catholic faith and took a strict line on abortion, the death penalty and divorce – even if her position was unpopular. Her whole life was influenced by her faith and religion, even though at times she confessed she didn't feel the presence of God.

The Missionaries of Charity now has branches throughout the world including branches in the developed world where they work with



the homeless and people affected with AIDS. In 1965, the Society became an International Religious Family by a decree of Pope Paul VI.

In the 1960s, the life of Mother Teresa was first brought to a wider public attention by Malcolm Muggeridge who wrote a book and produced a documentary called "Something Beautiful for God".

In 1979, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitutes a threat to peace." She didn't attend the ceremonial banquet, but asked that the \$192,000 fund be given to the poor.

In later years, she was more active in western developed countries. She commented that though the west was materially prosperous, there was often a spiritual poverty.

"The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread." Mother Teresa

When she was asked how to promote world peace, she replied. "Go home and love your family"

Over the last two decades of her life, Mother Teresa suffered various health problems but nothing could dissuade her from fulfilling her mission of serving the poor and needy. Until her very last illness she was active in travelling around the world to the different branches of "The Missionaries of Charity" During her last few years, she met Princess Diana in the Bronx, New York. The two died within a week of each other.

Following Mother Teresa's death the Vatican began the process of beatification, which is the second step on the way to canonisation and sainthood. Mother Teresa was formally beatified in October 2003 by Pope John Paul II and is now known as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. Mother Teresa was canonized as a saint on September 4, 2016, a day before the 19th anniversary of her death.

Mother Teresa was a living saint who offered a great example and inspiration to the world.

Awards Mother Teresa

- The first Pope John XXIII Peace Prize. (1971)
- Kennedy Prize (1971)
- The Nehru Prize –"for promotion of international peace and understanding"(1972)
- Albert Schweitzer International Prize (1975),
- The Nobel Peace Prize (1979)
- States Presidential Medal of Freedom (1985)
- Congressional Gold Medal (1994)
- Honorary citizenship of the United States (November 16, 1996)

Quotes

Peace begins with a smile..

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

There are no great things, only small things with great love. Happy are those.

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

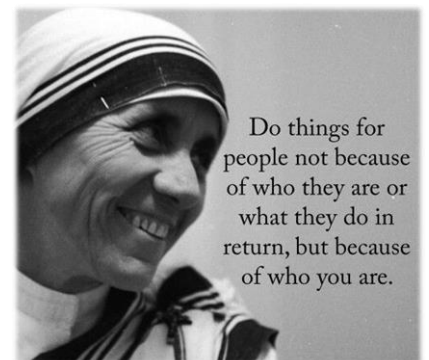
Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.

Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.

Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.

I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no hurt, but only more love.



Saint Teresa of Calcutta

September 5

AGNES GONXHA BOJAXHIU WAS BORN IN YUGOSLAVIA IN 1910. HER FATHER DIED WHEN SHE WAS 8. AT AGE 12 SHE KNEW GOD WANTED HER TO BE A MISSIONARY.

WHEN SHE WAS 18 AGNES BECAME A NUN AND TOOK THE NAME TERESA. SHE TAUGHT AT A SCHOOL FOR RICH GIRLS IN INDIA.

ON A TRAIN WHEN SHE WAS 36, SR. TERESA FELT GOD CALL HER TO SERVE THE VERY POOR.

I want you to serve Me in the poorest of the poor.

Today we will start learning how to read!

SHE GOT PERMISSION TO TAKE A NEW HABIT AND START A SCHOOL FOR POOR CHILDREN.

SOON OTHER WOMEN JOINED MOTHER TERESA TO HELP THE POOR AND DYING.

MOTHER TERESA KNEW THAT THEY COULD NOT CONTINUE WITHOUT TAKING TIME EVERY DAY TO TALK WITH JESUS.

Governments should also work to protect the poor and the unborn.

IN 1979 MOTHER TERESA WON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, BUT SHE STAYED HUMBLE AND USED EVERY CHANCE TO TELL THE RICH AND POWERFUL PEOPLE TO PROTECT THE POOR AND WEAK.

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA DIED ON SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1997. WE CAN LEARN FROM HER TO DEFEND AND HELP THOSE WHO CAN'T HELP THEMSELVES, ESPECIALLY THE POOR AND UNBORN CHILDREN. WE ALSO LEARN FROM HER EXAMPLE THAT WE NEED TO SPEND TIME IN PRAYER WITH JESUS EVERY DAY.

Daily Prayer of Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Dear **Jesus**, help me to spread Thy **fragrance** everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy **spirit** and love. Penetrate and possess my whole **being** so utterly that all my life may only be a **radiance** of **Thine**.

Shine through **me** and be so in me that every **soul** I come in contact with may feel **Thy presence** in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer **me** but only **Jesus**. Stay with me and then I shall begin to **shine** as **You** shine, so to shine as to be a **light** to others. Amen.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us.

"If we pray, we will believe
If we believe, we will love
If we love, we will serve"

-Mother Teresa