



YEAR OF FAITH 2012
2013

LIVING
OUR
Relationship
WITH
JESUS CHRIST



"The fruit of silence is prayer, the fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, and the fruit of service is peace."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Witnesses of Love

Living signs of Christ's presence in the world

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (1910–1997)

Is there anyone who hasn't heard of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta? This diminutive sister, originally from Albania, was a powerhouse of love. Named eighteen times in the Gallup poll of the ten most admired women, Mother Teresa is known for devotion to the poorest of the poor.

At age eighteen Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu joined the missionary Sisters of Loreto. For almost twenty years she ministered at schools in India. Then she heard the call to leave the convent and serve the poor while living with them. In 1948, Sister Teresa became a citizen of India, opened a school in Calcutta, and helped the destitute in slums. Women joined her, and in 1950, the religious congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was born. Its mission was to care for people who are shunned, including those dying on the streets, those suffering from AIDS, orphans,

alcoholics, lepers, and the disabled. Soon Mother Teresa's Sisters in their blue-bordered white habit were a familiar sight in numerous countries, particularly in time of war or natural disasters. The Missionaries of Charity Brothers and a contemplative branch of Sisters were founded in 1963, followed by organizations for lay people and Missionaries of Charity Fathers.

In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Typically, she asked that the money earmarked for the congratulatory banquet be donated to India's poor instead.

Beginning a new ministry was extremely difficult. Moreover, Mother Teresa struggled with faith for almost fifty years. Nothing, however, deterred her from being "Mother" to the unloved of the world. She was beatified in 2003.

Sister Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND

For Reflection

1. When Mother Teresa was asked, "What can we do to promote world peace?" she answered, "Go home and love your family." How can you put her advice into practice?
2. What organizations or projects does your parish have to serve those in need? How can you support them?
3. Why is it important to perform the corporal works of mercy? (See Matthew 25:31–46.)
4. Unlike Blessed Mother Teresa who received awards for her work, others are unsung heroes. Whom do you admire for caring for the poor? What does he or she do?

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