

Prayer

“Christ is hidden under the suffering appearance of anyone who is hungry... anyone who is homeless, or dying.” ~ Saint Teresa of Calcutta

*Lord,
Help me to see Your face in all I meet this day.
Show me to respond to Your presence this day in my neighbor, near and far.
Amen.*

Missionary Witness: Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was a missionary who fully devoted her entire life to helping the poor, the sick, the helpless, the forgotten. “Jesus gave us a new commandment, ‘Love one another as I have loved you,’” she said. “And to make it easy for us to love, He said, ‘Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.’ I call this the Gospel on five fingers – five words: ‘You did it to me’ (Gospel of St. Matthew 25:40).”



She was born Anjezë (Agnes) Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in Skopje, then part of the Ottoman Empire, on August 26, 1910. Her father died when she was eight, and she was raised by her mother. She grew up a Catholic, and at 18, joined the Sisters of Loreto to become a missionary to India. Before she could go to India, she had to learn English. She spent a year in Ireland learning to speak English at the Loretto Abbey and then began her missionary work in Darjeeling, India. She learned the local language also, Bengali, and taught at the local school. In 1931, she took her vows as a religious Sister and chose the name Teresa. She taught for many years in India, becoming the headmistress at a school in eastern Calcutta.

When she was 36 years old, she felt a special call from God to help the poorest of the poor and the sick of India. She received some basic medical training. Often she herself was constantly hungry and even had to beg for food. In 1950, Mother Teresa formed a group within the Catholic Church called the Missionaries of Charity. She described the purpose of the Missionaries of Charity as an organization that would take care of the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone. When she first started the Missionaries of Charity, there were only 13 members. Today, the group has more than 4,000 members who care for people all over the world. She died on September 5, 1997 in India.

Fun Facts About Mother Teresa...

- Mother Teresa was beatified – declared “blessed” – on World Mission Sunday (October 19, 2003) by then Pope John Paul II (now Saint John Paul II). She was canonized a saint on September 4, 2016 by Pope Francis.
- She never saw her mother or sister again after leaving home to become a missionary.
- Albania's international airport is named after her, the Aeroporti Nene Tereza.
- She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. Rather than have the traditional Nobel honor banquet, she asked that the money for the banquet be donated to the poor of India.
- She once traveled through a war zone to rescue 37 children from the front lines.

Meet the Missionaries...

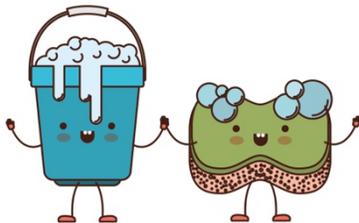


Helen Flaherty was a special education teacher in her native Dublin, Ireland. Then she came to Zambia – to be a mother. One of the house mothers at the Nyumba Yanga Home in Lusaka – or as it's better known, the “Home of Joy” – Flaherty said: “Here I found my own piece of heaven.” Some 50 girls live at the home, which is run by the Missionary Sisters of the Congregation of the Immaculate

Conception. A group of girls live together in a small cottage with a house mother, like Flaherty, someone who has left her own home and family to be a mother to these children, who are abandoned or orphaned. They live like family, attending school nearby, and then doing homework and helping with cooking and laundry. The Sisters and the house mothers also help these young people experience the Lord's love.



Missionary Help: Our Mission ~ Washing!



For this FUNdraising activity for the Extraordinary Missionary Month, reserve a safe space – maybe the parish or school parking lot – for a Saturday morning and advertise: “Our Mission ~ Washing!” You can wash cars, dogs, even dirty lawn furniture! If you're not on washing detail, you can make and sell lemonade to those waiting for their items to be washed. And, if you want, you can hold the sign that brings people to your special mission event, supporting the Missionary Childhood Association which helps children in Zambia, India and around the world.