

The Saint of the Gutter

The Eucharist was the center of Mother Teresa's life. Every day she took part in the celebration of Mass and received Holy Communion. At the conclusion of Mass, she truly went out "in peace, glorifying the Lord by [her] life."

Mother Teresa was born in Albania on August 26, 1910. She left her home in 1928 to join the Sisters of Loreto to become a missionary. In 1929 she arrived in India to teach school. Later, she dedicated her life to serving people who were left to die on the streets. Because of this work, Mother Teresa became known as the "Saint of the Gutter." Describing her work, she wrote, "I see God in every human being. When I wash the leper's wounds, I feel that I am nursing the Lord himself."

Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. In 1985 she was awarded the Medal of Freedom by the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan. On the night she died, the president of France said, "This evening, there is less love, less compassion, less light in the world." These and other honors recognized the difference Mother Teresa's life made in the world.

On October 19, 2003, just six years after she died, Pope John Paul II named Mother Teresa a Blessed of the Church. This honor recognizes that Mother Teresa faithfully lived the Gospel and is a model of charity for all Christians to follow. Her life was a living witness to the love of God. "God still loves the world," she wrote, "and he sends you and me to be his love and his compassion to the poor."

? Why could sharing in the Eucharist strengthen you to be a living witness of God's love?

Disciple Power



Charity

Charity is one of the three Theological Virtues. It is the virtue, or habit, we receive from God that enables us to love and serve God and others with unselfish devotion.

