

# Mother Teresa

1910 - 1997

“Saint of the Gutters”

Mother Teresa was born in Albania in 1910 and was named Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu. Religion was a large part of her life, and she left home at eighteen to join the Irish Order of the Sisters of Loreto. She did this knowing that she would never see her family again. She was transferred to India in 1929 to teach at St. Mary’s High School for girls. She eventually became the principal. She enjoyed this, but felt that there was something missing in her life. She left the school after almost twenty years and started the Missionaries of Charity. This organization’s goal was to help the “poorest of the poor.” This organization has spread across the world and is known for its humanitarian efforts.

Mother Teresa started the Home for the Dying in Calcutta. This home was a refuge for people that were dying on the streets. She believed that every person deserved to die with dignity in a place where they felt loved and were taken care of. She lived in poverty among these people and believed that to know the poor, you must live like the poor. Mother Teresa performed many of the tasks herself, going out and helping the dying into the home. Her health was bad, but she continued to work hard. Her cause enticed many volunteers to come from all over the world to help in the home.

She campaigned against abortion and promoted adoption. She did not expect any recognition for her work, but she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for “upholding the sacredness and dignity of every human being” (Vardey, 193). She was very humble and did not feel that she deserved this attention. She died of heart failure in 1997, at the age of 87, among the people that she served.

Mother Teresa is often known as the most charitable woman in history. She greatly increased and improved the treatment of the poor, the homeless, the dying, the unwanted, and many other people who are often considered a burden to society. She loved everyone. She was a spiritual leader to those who were seeking guidance, a blessing to those who needed help, and an example to everyone.

## **Bibliography**

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