

Mother Teresa



At 21 years old, Mother Teresa (born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu) devoted her life to the church and started teaching at a convent in Calcutta. After 17 years there, she left her teaching post to devote her life to helping the poor and hungry people outside the convent walls. She had no money at first and started teaching the homeless in the open air. Soon volunteers joined her, and eventually she received some funding for her caring work. Soon she started a charity with the mission of “loving and caring for those persons nobody was prepared to look after.”

The Missionaries of Charity was her work for 45 years. Mother Teresa was known for helping people no one else would touch. She worked with great love and acceptance for people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy, and tuberculosis. The charity operated soup kitchens, orphanages, and schools and gave hope to many poor people of India and other countries.

She ignored differences of class and brought dignity to destitute people. In recognition of her humanitarian work, she won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, the Bharat Ratna, a very high honor for Indian civilians, and many other awards. People all over the world knew about and admired her work.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was unusual about the mission of Mother Teresa's charity?
2. What acts show she thought more about others' needs than her own?
3. What synonyms of caring describe Mother Teresa's life and work?

