

## LESSON 11

# THE STORY OF MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA (DIED SEPT. 5, 1997)

### LESSON NOTES

**FOCUS: MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA CARED FOR THE SICK AND POOR FOR GOD.**

### THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: THE MYSTERY OF PENTECOST SHELF, THIRD SHELF, BESIDE ST. AUGUSTINE**
- **PIECES: MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA BOOKLET, A SARI LIKE SHE WORE (WHITE WITH BLUE TRIM) WITH A CROSS PINNED TO IT, A BOWL & CLOTH, A WOODEN PLAQUE WITH THE IMAGE OF A DOVE AND THE WORD "PEACE."**
- **UNDERLAY: GREEN FELT**

### BACKGROUND

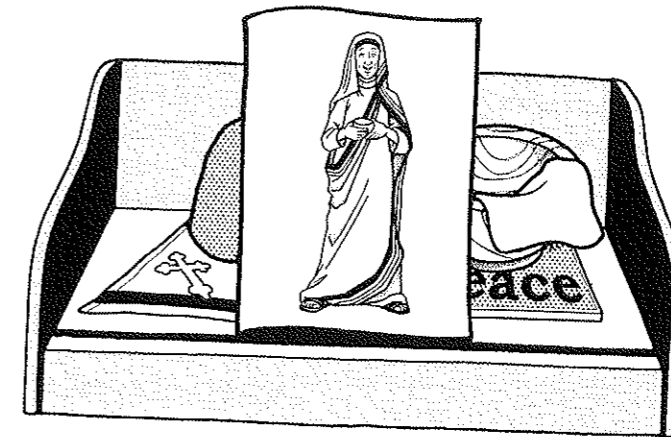
Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born of Albanian parents in Skopje in 1910. When she entered the Loreto convent in Ireland she took the name Teresa from Theresa of Lisieux at the age of 18. The nuns sent her to their convent in India where she took her final vows in 1937. In 1948 she left the convent to serve the poorest people in Calcutta. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. The nuns who continue her work are known as the Sisters of Charity. Teresa was beatified by the Roman Catholic Church in 2003, but has not yet been canonized, so she has no day of remembrance.

### NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Mother Teresa of Calcutta's story sits on a small, shallow tray about 8 inches square, with sides about two inches deep. It has a groove in the front to slide the booklet in so the children can see it when they approach the Mystery of Pentecost shelf.

The booklet is 4.25" x 5.5". The cover has an image of Teresa on it that matches the figure used in the introductory lessons on the communion of saints. The second page has a map of the world, with India, Teresa's home, highlighted and labeled. It also has an image of the flag of India. The third page has a time line beginning with the year 1 AD and ending with the year 2000 AD with an arrow indicating when Teresa lived. The rest of the booklet has the story of the life of Teresa.

Behind the booklet in the tray are placed the objects used to help us remember Teresa's life: a sari like she wore, a bowl and cloth and a wooden plaque with an image of a dove on it and the word *Peace*. The underlay is a 12" square piece of green cloth and is folded on top of the objects.



MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA TRAY

### A NOTE ABOUT DATES FOR THE SAINTS

There is scholarly debate about the dates for the lives of many saints. We have had to make decisions about these dates for pedagogical reasons. We hope the children will continue to learn more about the saints all their life long, including their dates. The basis for the dates used in this volume is how they are remembered liturgically. This has been established by custom in the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and other traditions. We usually follow the dates that are found in the Episcopal publication called *Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2006*. This book is also a reference for remembering saints for most days in the year and for children (and adults) to continue to learn more about the saints, using this liturgical orientation.

You can order this book at [www.morehouseeducation.org](http://www.morehouseeducation.org) or by calling: 1-800-242-1918.

Sister Teresa became known as Mother Teresa because she was like a mother to all her helpers. This new group was called the Missionaries of Charity. Charity is a kind of love that loves even if no one loves back.

In the 1950s she gathered her many helpers into a new religious order. They worked only with the poor as she did. Then she spent every day helping the poorest of the poor of Calcutta. She became a nurse to help more, especially the people who were dying alone on the street. She even wiped the flies out of their eyes.

One day she found an old woman dying in the streets. She was so weak that the rats and ants had eaten part of her body. Teresa was not very big, but she picked up the lady and took her to a hospital. They would not let her in, so Teresa of Calcutta began to help all the people she could who had no place to go.

In 1948 she left the convent where she had been teaching and stopped wearing the black clothes of a nun. She chose instead to wear a sari like the ladies of India. It was white with a blue border on it and with a little cross fastened to her shoulder. The nuns in Dublin then sent her to India where she became a Loreto nun in 1937. She lived mostly in Calcutta where she taught at St. Mary's, a school for wealthy girls.

While Agnes was a teenager she became very close to God, so, in 1928, she left home to go to Ireland to the Loreto Convent in Dublin. When she joined the convent she was named Teresa. A little girl named Agnes was born in Skopje (SKAW-pee-yeh), Macedonia to Albanian parents. Her father died when she was only eight years old, but her mother began her own business. She sewed beautiful things out of cloth.

This is the story of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. We shall remember her during the green and growing time of the church year—after Pentecost. I wonder why we remember Teresa? Let's see.

Go and get the material for Mother Teresa of Calcutta's story. Watch where I go to get the lesson for today.

**WORDS**

**MOVEMENTS**

Place the bowl and the cloth on the underlay beside the booklet.

Place the sari, with a little cross pinned on it, on the underlay beside the booklet.

Take the saint booklet from the tray and place it in the center of the underlay.

Unfold the underlay in front of you and say:

## MOVEMENTS

Place the wooden "Peace" plaque on the underlay.

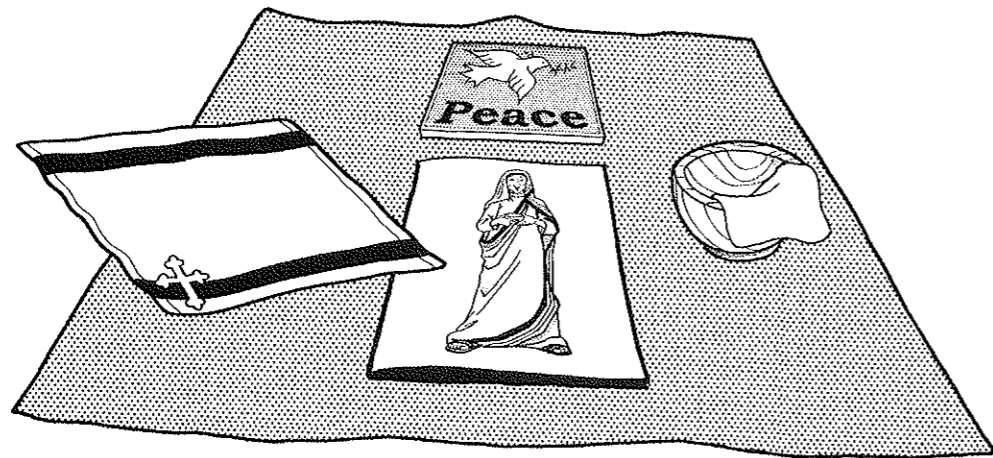
## WORDS

She helped the sick and dying but also worked for peace. One time she said, "If you want to work for peace don't talk to your friends, talk to your enemies." She did so much work for peace that she won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. When she went to receive the prize she gave the money of the prize and the food for the banquet to the poor.

She always knew what to do. When the Pope was shot in Rome she went immediately to see him. When there was a hospital full of children in danger in Beirut, she stopped the fighting until the children could be taken care of. When she had a heart attack in Rome, she went home to Calcutta. That was where she died.

Thousands of people came from all over the world to her funeral. She was carried through the streets to her burial in the same carriage that carried Gandhi, another great worker for peace, to his burial in India.

We remember Teresa, because she cared for the poor and sick for God.



COMPLETE LAYOUT OF THE STORY OF MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

## MOVEMENTS

Guide the wondering about Teresa's life using these wondering questions.

## WORDS

I wonder what parts of Teresa's story you like the best?

I wonder what part of the story is the most important?

I wonder what part of the story is about you or where you might be in the story?

I wonder if we could leave any part of the story out and still have all the story that we need?

Let me show you what is inside this booklet and how you might work with it yourself.

Show the children the booklet. Point out the map of the world showing where Teresa lived, the flag of the country, the time line showing when she lived, and the story printed to help the children know Teresa better.

Model how to put the lesson back on the tray and then carry it back to its spot on the shelf.

Now let me show you how to put the story away. Here is the sari like the one Teresa wore after she started helping the poorest of the poor. Here is the bowl and the cloth that reminds us that Teresa learned how to be a nurse so she could care for the sick. Here is the plaque that reminds us how she worked for peace. Here is the booklet that helps us remember all about Teresa. And here is the green underlay, because we remember Teresa during the green and growing season of the year.

Return to your spot in the circle and begin to dismiss the children to their work.

Now I wonder what you would like to make your work today?