



**St. Teresa  
of Calcutta**  
September 5

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1910–1997 • Albania

Mother Teresa was riding on the crowded train from Calcutta to Darjeeling to attend a prayer retreat. A voice called to her deep in her heart. It was Jesus' voice, and He was calling her to bring His love to the poor.

Born in Albania, Teresa had felt a deep love for God in her heart ever since she received her First Holy Communion. She became a missionary sister at the age of eighteen and had spent the past twenty years as a teacher in a girl's school in India. But now Jesus was giving Mother Teresa a call within a call. He was calling her to be His feet and hands in loving care for the poor. "Come be My light," Jesus begged Mother Teresa. "I cannot go alone." Mother Teresa's soul was filled with the same thirst for the poor that Jesus had felt when He had thirsted on the Cross. Mother Teresa knew that she must answer Jesus' call and give her life to loving His poor.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta went to the bishop and told him of Jesus' call for her. It took the bishop two years to grant his approval for her new order, the Sisters of Charity. But when he did, Mother Teresa donned her new habit, a white sari hemmed with blue, and went out to the slums to care for Calcutta's poor.

And Calcutta's poor were poor indeed. Abandoned and neglected "untouchables," the poor and sick lay down to die on the streets. Mother Teresa knelt down beside a sick man, his weak body festering with sores. She gathered him into her arms and bathed his wounds. With tears of thanks in his eyes, he told her, "All my life I have lived like an animal in the streets, but here I am dying like an angel, because I am loved and cared for."

Mother Teresa started a hospital and home for the dying. She told the sick and the poor that God was a God of love. More and more women joined the Sisters of Charity, and Mother Teresa sent her sisters to serve the poor throughout all of India, and then throughout the world.

Mother Teresa remained true to Jesus' call even when she experienced a "dark night of the soul," which means she stopped feeling Jesus' presence in her heart. Sometimes the greatest saints suffer a dark night of the soul so that Jesus can strengthen their love and trust in Him. And so Teresa learned to trust in Jesus completely and remained faithful to Jesus' call to her on the train. Mother Teresa never stopped bringing God's love to the poor until she died a holy death, having touched the lives of millions and inspired works of mercy and charity around the world.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, help me bring Jesus' light to the poor!