

## **Mother Teresa: A Beacon of Selfless Love**

**"Love begins by taking care of the closest ones - the ones at home."**

*- Mother Teresa*

In the tapestry of the 20th century, a radiant figure emerged, known to the world as the **"Saint of the Gutters."** This luminous soul needs no introduction, for she is none other than the revered **Mother Teresa**. She was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu on **August 26, 1910**, in Skopje, Ottoman Empire (now Skopje, North Macedonia), her calling to religious life manifested early. Joining the Loreto Sisters in **1928**, she was dispatched to India in **1929**, dedicating 17 years to teaching in Calcutta.

In **1946**, Mother Teresa underwent a profound spiritual transformation, experiencing a **"call within a call"** to serve the sick and destitute. She obtained permission to leave the convent school and initiated her mission in the Calcutta slums. With a few volunteers, she established a dispensary, an orphanage, and a school for underprivileged children.

In **1950**, Mother Teresa founded the **Missionaries of Charity**, a religious order committed to serving **"the poorest of the poor."** This organization rapidly expanded throughout India and worldwide. At her passing in 1997, the Missionaries of Charity encompassed over **4,000 sisters** and volunteers, operating **600+ centers** across **123** countries.

Mother Teresa's work was met with **both praise and criticism**. Her critics accused her of providing inadequate medical care to her patients, of promoting religious conversion, and of accepting donations from questionable sources.

Despite criticism, Mother Teresa received numerous awards and honors, including the Nobel Peace Prize in **1979**. On September 5, **1997**, she passed away, but her memory thrives. She was canonized as **Saint Teresa** of Calcutta by Pope Francis in **2016**.

Her words,

**"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love"**  
perpetuate the profound impact of compassion and care on our world.

Mother Teresa's life remains an inspiration, demonstrating the transformative potential of one individual's love and dedication to humanity.