FOR RELEASE TO ALL MEDIA THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1976:

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India will visit Davenport on Friday, April 23, 1976 as a guest of the Catholic Diocese of Davenport. The world renowned foundress of the Missionaries of Charity, who was featured on the December 19, 1975 cover of TIME magazine and was the principal subject of TIME's article, "Saints Among Us," will be in the United States to address the National Catholic Educators' Association in Chicago that week. Mother Teresa accepted the invitation of Bishop Gerald O'Keefe to include the Davenport stop in her schedule.

Plans call for a simple meal of homemade soup, bread, and coffee at 6:30 p.m. at Assumption High School Cafeteria followed by a 7:30 p.m. program in the Assumption High Gym featuring a 50-minute film, "Something Beautiful for God," -- a description of the famed nun's work among the poorest of the poor in India -- and an address by Mother Teresa.

Ann (Mrs. Charles) Toney is in charge of the dinner, and Ms. Carol Malinowski will head the ticket committee. The Christian Service Committees of all the Catholic parishes in Scott County are being asked to help. Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. dinner will be $6 each, and this price includes the program in the gym. Tickets for the film and speech only will be $2 each. All tickets may be reserved by sending checks to the Social Action Department, 2706 Gaines, Davenport, IA 52804, phone (319) 324-1911; or may be purchased at the office of Churches United of Scott and Rock Island Counties, 639 - 38 Street, Rock Island; Religious Supply Center, 720 Harrison Street, Davenport; or at the Public Service Desk of the QUAD CITY TIMES, 124 E. Second Street, Davenport.

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"Action on behalf of justice and ... the transformation of the world ... (is) ... a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel..."— World Synod of Bishops, 1971.
Proceeds from the dinner and program will be given to Mother Teresa for her poverty work around the world. An opportunity will be provided at the program for any individuals or groups that wish to make additional contributions to her work.

Mother Teresa will be making no other appearances in Davenport, and she will be returning early the next morning to visit her sisters who are working in Harlem in New York.

The 65-year old nun was born of Albanian parents in Yugoslavia and taught for twenty years in India. In 1948, she went alone and penniless into the streets of Calcutta to work among the starving and dying. Since then, she has been joined by 1,132 young Indian women and since 1963 by 150 brothers. She has founded 32 havens for the dying, 28 childrens' homes, 67 leprosariums. The work of her order has spread to 67 countries.

When asked by a reporter about the growth of her work, she replied, "Not for a second did I think God would act like this. We have nothing. The greatness of God is that he has used this nothing to do something."

Mother Teresa sees the poor as "the hope of the salvation of mankind." Further, she states, "Let us overcome the world with love. There is hunger not only for bread but for love -- to be wanted, to be understood. We are not trying so much to do social work as to live out that life of love, of compassion, that God has for his people."

She has received an array of international honors but sees them as "recognition that the poor are our brothers and sisters."

The poor of Bengal refer to Mother Teresa's sisters and brothers as "the preachers of love who do not preach."

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