

Saint Teresa of Kolkata

DATES: 1910–1997
FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 7

Raised in a deeply Catholic family in Albania, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu joined the Sisters of Loreto in 1928 and took the name Teresa. The community sent her to Kolkata, India, where she taught children for two decades. In 1946 Teresa heard God’s call to quench the thirst of Jesus by caring for the poorest of the poor. She left the Sisters of Loreto to rescue the sick and destitute in the slums of Kolkata -- one at a time. Many volunteers soon joined her and she formed them into her religious order, the Missionaries of Charity. Teresa’s manifest goodness and her unique media savvy attracted global attention, drawing many people to God. Many regard her as the greatest Catholic evangelist of the 20th century. She was beatified in 2003 and canonized in 2016.



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