



## A Person of Commitment - MOTHER TERESA

### Mother Teresa – A Person of Commitment



<https://pdfhive.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Mother-Teresa-Biography-young.jpg>

Mother Teresa was the founder of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation of women dedicated to helping the poor, sick and homeless. She is one of the 20th Century's greatest humans, she was Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 2016.

This is her story...

### *Her Early Life and Influences*

Mother Teresa was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August in 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia. The next day, she was baptized as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu.

Mother Teresa grew up in a catholic family with her parents Nikollë and Dranfile, her older brother Lazar Bojaxhiu and her sister Aga Bojaxhiu. Her father was as an entrepreneur, he was involved in the local church, as well as in city politics as a vocal proponent of Albanian independence. In 1919, when her father died Agnes became closer to her mother.

Her mother was a pious and compassionate woman. It appears to me Mother Teresa's commitment to work with the poor was influenced by her own upbringing and education. Although they were not a wealthy family her mother extended an open invitation to the City's destitute to have dinner with her family. Her mother told her daughter "my child never eat a mouthful unless you are sharing with others" Agnes responded with "some of them are our relatives, but all of them are our people."



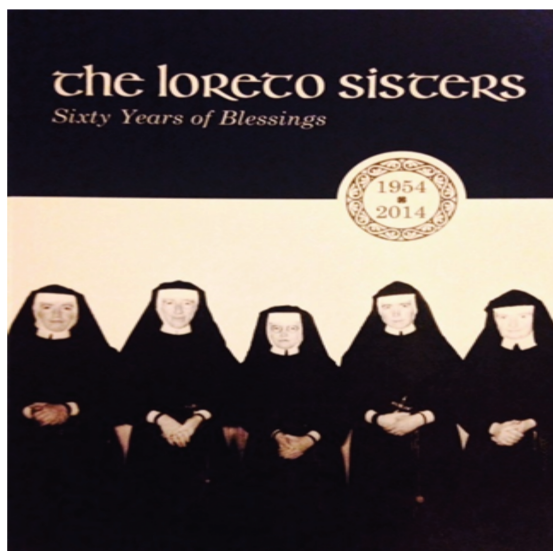
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### *Her Calling*

Agnes went to a Convent run primary school and then a state-run secondary school. She sang in the local church and went on a pilgrimage trip at 12 years of age. At this stage she decided she wanted to become a nun so that she could dedicate her life to others. She joined the Loreto Sisters, took her vows in 1931 and was sent to teach in Calcutta.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, she took her last profession of vows to a life of poverty, chastity, and obedience. She took the title of “Mother” making her final vows and she became known as Mother Teresa. Mother Teresa still taught at Saint Mary’s then in the year 1944 she became the principal. She led them to a life of devotion of Christ. She did not fail her commitment to her student’s education. She wrote a prayer, and it says, “give me the strength to be ever the light of their lives so that I may lead them at last to you.”

In this work I can see her commitment to Christian values of kindness, generosity and care for the poor. I can see also that she valued education and was dedicated to her student’s education.



<https://phxconsecratedlife.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/cover-of-sixty-years-of-blessings.jpg>



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### *Helping the world*



<https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.timetoast.com/public/uploads/photos/9472684/a588f63f-7c9c-498c-a568-279553b93548.jpg>

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September in 1946, Mother Teresa had a second calling that changed her life. She was on a train from Calcutta to the Himalayan foothills for a holiday, when God told her not to work in teaching anymore, but to work in the slums of Calcutta aiding the city's poorest and sickest people.

Mother Teresa could not leave her Convent without official permission because she took the vow of obedience. After a year and a half of lobbying, in January 1948 she finally was able to pursue her calling. In August, she wore a blue and white sari that she would wear in public for the rest of her life, she left the Loreto and went out into the city. She completed 6 months of basic medical training and went into slums with a goal, to aid the unwanted, unloved and the uncared for.

Mother Teresa helped the city's poorest by opening an open-air school, and a home for the dying in a dilapidated building. She convinced the government to donate to her cause. In October 1950, she won conical recognition for a new congregation, the missionaries of charity which she put together with only a few women, most of them were former teachers or pupils from Saint Mary's.



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Her congregation took off and got loads of donations from all over India and across the globe. Over the course of the 1950's and 1960's her charities grew, and she established a leper colony, an orphanage, a nursing home, a family clinic, and a string of mobile health clinics.

In 1971, Mother Teresa went to New York City to open her first American-based house of charity. In summer of 1982, she secretly went to Beirut and Lebanon, where she went between Christian East Beirut and Muslim West Beirut to care for children of both faiths. In 1985, Mother Teresa returned to New York and spoke at the 40th anniversary about the United Nations General Assembly. While she was there, she also opened Gift of Love, a home to care for those infected with HIV/AIDS

**Mother Teresa founded a new sisterhood called The Missionaries of Charity.**



[https://media.npr.org/assets/img/2015/10/09/missionariesofcharity\\_wide-23071fcf28a3aefb997b850eff4e003608e65ddf.jpg?s=1400](https://media.npr.org/assets/img/2015/10/09/missionariesofcharity_wide-23071fcf28a3aefb997b850eff4e003608e65ddf.jpg?s=1400)



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After years of deteriorating health, including heart, lung and kidney problems, Mother Teresa unfortunately died on September 5, 1997 at the age of 87 in Calcutta in India.



<https://ctd-thechristianpost.netdna-ssl.com/en/full/51905/missionaries-of-charity.jpg?w=760&h=572&l=50&t=40>

### ***Beliefs and Worldviews***

Mother Teresa's personal values were that the thought of the uncared, unloved and unwanted in the society tormented her. She was on a mission to help such people with love and care. She believed in Peace, Justice and Love. She showed her commitment to helping the poor and the sick in many ways. Mother Teresa treated everyone equally and with great respect, she showed this everyday by helping people in need and supporting them in times of need.

Mother Teresa's religious belief was that she belonged to Christian faith, she believed in the religion of love and took amazing efforts to help the underprivileged irrespective of caste, creed, language and religion. Her beliefs and morals were based of Christian charity. She was a very dedicated Catholic who believed in spreading the love of Jesus to everyone.



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<https://mcadvocate.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Mother-Teresa-amit-shahi-475x317.jpg>



In many of her speeches and writings she expressed her belief in Jesus. Pity and Compassion were the two strong values which influenced St. Mother Teresa. She believed by nursing and serving the poor she was serving God. Selflessness, dedication, and compassion towards the

poor were the driving forces which influenced St. Mother Teresa to play a positive role in the society in helping the sufferings of the poor, sick and old people.

At the age of 18, when she left her home for Calcutta, she was greatly moved by the sufferings of the homeless who faced starvation especially after the Second World War. The condition of these people impacted her so much she decided to put her beliefs into reality by serving the affected. Mother Teresa lived her beliefs by loving everyone in a humble way and believed that to love one's neighbour is to love God.



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### Mother Teresa's Awards

Mother Teresa and her helpers built homes for orphans, nursing homes for lepers and hospices for the terminally ill in Calcutta.

Mother Teresa's organization also engaged in aid work in other parts of the world. In February 1965, Pope Paul VI bestowed the Decree of Praise upon the Missionaries of Charity, which prompted Mother Teresa to begin expanding internationally. By the time of her death in 1997, the Missionaries of Charity numbered more than 4,000 — in addition to thousands more lay volunteers — with 610 foundations in 123 countries around the world. The Decree of Praise was just the start, as Mother Teresa received various honors for her tireless and effective charity. She was awarded the Jewel of India, the highest honor bestowed on Indian civilians, as well as the now-defunct Soviet Union's Gold Medal of the Soviet Peace Committee. In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work "in bringing help to suffering humanity."



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### Self reflection

I thoroughly enjoyed learning about Mother Teresa, she inspired me and taught me a few things about life. She has taught me to be kind and generous to others and always to help others in need. When I chose Mother Teresa as a person of commitment, all I knew about her was that she helped people. I never knew how much she had done and the awards she won. When I got to learn her story and read her quotes, it made me feel happy that she dedicated her life to others, and helped a lot of people. She worked tirelessly. She has inspired me to want to go out into the world and help people, even it's giving someone a smile, picking something up for someone if they let it fall, or just to do good deeds for people. I have learned so much from about her worldviews and beliefs. While I really like Mother Teresa, she is a really good person, there is one thing I did not like about her. She had drawn criticism for her vocal endorsement of some of the Catholic Church's more controversial doctrines, such as opposition to contraception and abortion. Mother Teresa said in her 1979 Nobel lecture.

"The greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion," In 1995, she publicly advocated a "no" vote in the Irish referendum to end the country's constitutional ban on divorce and remarriage. I think I chose the right person of commitment, I really enjoyed researching, learning and reporting about her. I would recommend for everyone to learn about Mother Teresa.



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### **Mother Teresa's quotes that show her beliefs**

*"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."*

*"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."*

*"Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat."*

*"I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God Who is sending a love letter to the world."*

*"Intense love does not measure, it just gives."*

*"Every work of love done with a full heart brings people closer to God."*

*"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for a smile is the beginning of love."*

*"You can love all men perfectly if you love the one God in them all."*

*"I believe God loves the world through us—through you and me."*

*"At the end of life, we are going to be judged on the basis of our love for one another"*



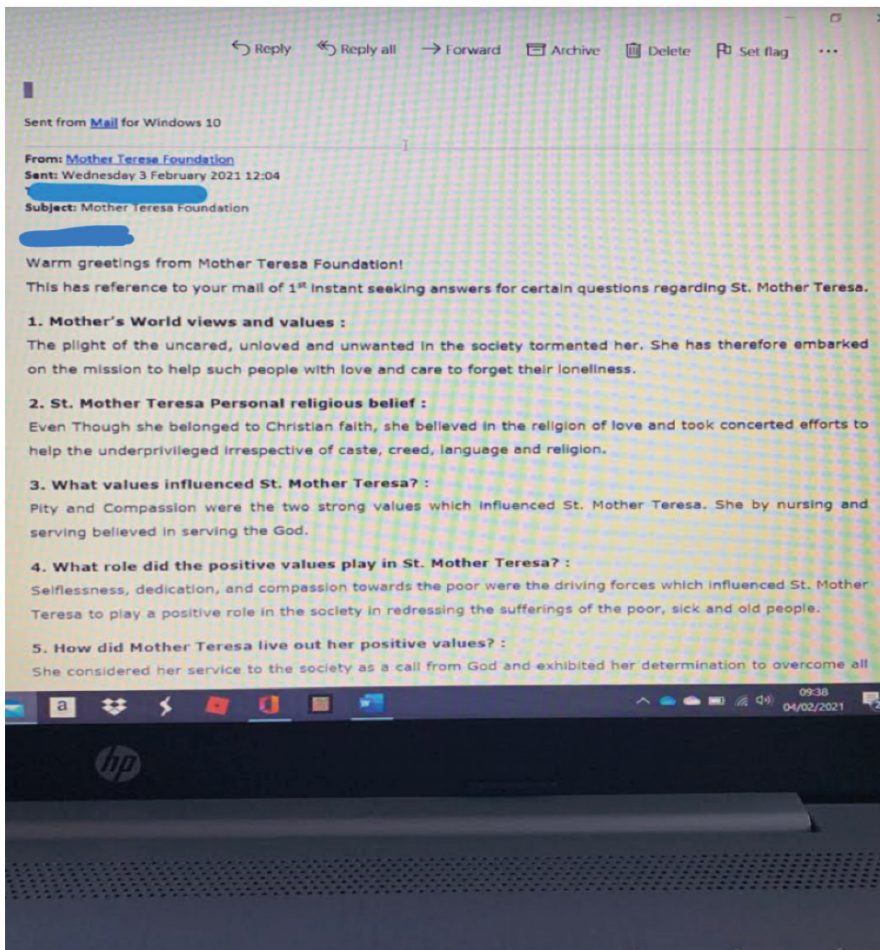
*"If we really want to love we must learn how to forgive"*



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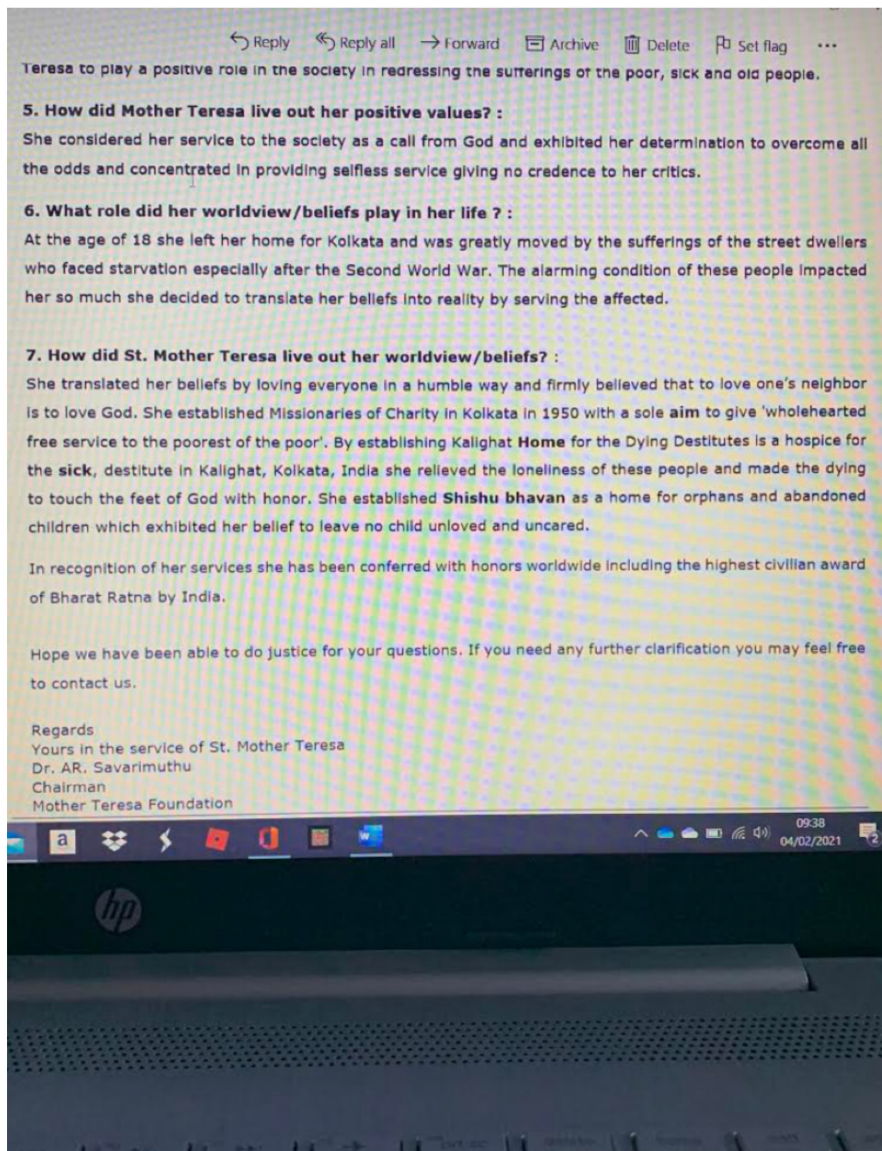
### My Research

Many thanks to the Mother Teresa Foundation for sharing information with me, about her beliefs, values and worldviews and how she lived them through her life.





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### Who I Contacted

- Firstly, I contacted *Mother Teresa Foundation* and explained that I had chosen Mother Teresa as my person of Commitment for my Junior Certificate Religion Class-based Assessment (CBA). I asked if it was possible for me to ask questions about Mother Teresa and with their permission to publish them in my work online. They replied to my email and gave me permission. In the email I sent a few questions that I wanted to know more about, and I was fortunate enough that they were able to answer all my questions.
- I also contacted [https://motherteresafoundation.org\(16\)Facebook](https://motherteresafoundation.org(16)Facebook) and [Loreto – Irish Province of the Loreto Sisters](#) however, they did not reply.

### Sites I Used For My Research

- ❖ <https://www.biography.com/religious-figure/mother-teresa>
- ❖ [10 Major Achievements of Mother Teresa | Learnodo Newtonic \(learnodo-newtonic.com\)](#)
- ❖ [www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1979/teresa/questions-and-answers/](http://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1979/teresa/questions-and-answers/)
- ❖ [10 of the Most Beautiful Mother Teresa Quotes on Love \(coraevans.com\)](#)
- ❖ [Ethical Principles - Mother Teresa \(weebly.com\)](#)
- ❖ [www.rocketswag.com/biography/humanitarian/Mother-teresa/Mother-Teresa-](http://www.rocketswag.com/biography/humanitarian/Mother-teresa/Mother-Teresa-)
- ❖ [https://motherteresafoundation.org\(16\) Facebook](https://motherteresafoundation.org(16)Facebook)
- ❖ [Loreto – Irish Province of the Loreto Sisters](#)



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### TEACHER ANNOTATIONS USING THE FEATURES OF QUALITY

The annotations capture observations by the teacher, using the features of quality, with a view to establishing the level of achievement this work reflects. The annotations and judgments were confirmed by a Quality Assurance group, consisting of practising teachers and representatives of the NCCA, the Inspectorate, the State Exams Commission and the Junior Cycle for Teachers support service.

### TEACHER ANNOTATIONS

**Feature of Quality 1** This report is strong in both the scope of research and the skills of enquiry demonstrated. The student shows evidence of extensive reading, which is evident in the relevant biographical details threaded through the report and in the bibliography provided. The student is to be commended for the focused nature of the research and for reaching out to relevant organizations. The focused and relevant questions posed to The Mother Teresa Foundation show excellent research skills and a clear understanding of the task. The responses to these questions are integrated into the report and also included as stand-alone evidence of research which is helpful.

**Feature of Quality 2** The report includes a clear account of the actions undertaken by Mother Teresa during her lifetime in support of the poor, sick and homeless and the positive difference she has made in the world. Mother Teresa's upbringing in a Catholic family, her Catholic schooling and the impact that the plight of the poor in the aftermath of World War II had on her are credited as a source of her beliefs and value of charity. Although there is some reference to Jesus, more could have been said about how the person and preaching of Jesus influenced Mother Teresa's life and actions. Where a page of quotes is listed in the report, it would have enhanced the report if a smaller selection of these were used to support points being made and linked back into the ideas presented in the body of the report, rather than standing alone, without context.

**Feature of Quality 3** There is good evidence of personal reflection, including offering a point of personal disagreement with some of Mother Teresa's views. Some reflection points could have been developed further such as '*I have learned so much about her worldviews and beliefs*'. This would have benefitted from elaboration.

OVERALL JUDGEMENT:



Above Expectations