



Msgr. Mike's Blog | St. Teresa of Calcutta

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Mother Teresa (as we have known her throughout our lives) becomes **St. Teresa of Calcutta** today. This Sunday morning in Rome she is officially proclaimed what we have always known her to be - a true Saint. The Canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square is expected to be Pope Francis' largest celebration for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. How very fitting indeed! Throughout this holy year Pope Francis had directed our attention to the great gift of God's mercy which is revealed in the most visible way in Jesus. With St. Teresa of Calcutta we have one more incredibly visible face of mercy to inspire us.

Whenever Mother Teresa encountered people who asked about her community, the Missionaries of Charity, she explained that they wanted to be in solidarity with the materially poorest of the poor throughout the world. Each time she traveled to the West and particularly to the U.S., she would always remark that the greatest poverty in the world today is to be unloved, unwanted and uncared for.

In 2007, ten years after Mother Teresa's death, some of her personal letters to her spiritual director were published. In these writings she expressed a darkness and a distance from God which eventually would lead her to a deeper union with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the Cross. It was difficult for us to imagine how this woman so close to God could feel so distant from Him. This experience led her to ponder about what so many people said about her, and she wrote "If I am going to be a saint I'm going to be a saint of darkness, and I'll be asking from heaven to be the light of those who are in darkness on earth". She is now this light not only to the materially poor and suffering, but to all who are unloved, unwanted and uncared for. Even from her place in heaven St. Teresa of Calcutta continues to care for the least among us. Hers will always be a shining face of God's mercy.

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