

Where there is love, there is God: Mother Teresa

The inspiration Mother Teresa received on the train gave her profound insight into God's love. She understood as never before how much God desired, longed, "thirsted" to love a beloved: He thirsted for her love and for the love of each person He created, especially those most in need. Jesus' words from the Cross, "I thirst," were for her the expression of this intense love and, were always to remind her of the call she had received, a call to satiate His thirst. Satiating Jesus' thirst for love and for souls implied a willingness to strive for ever greater intimacy with Him. It also implied a readiness to be a channel, heedless of the cost to self, through which God's love could be communicated to His children. This call gave Mother Teresa a sense of responsibility and urgency toward her mission. If Divine Providence placed someone in her path, she would do all she could to help that person come to know God better and so enter into a closer relationship with Him.

[...]

Nearly half a century lived in spiritual aridity did not hinder Mother Teresa's ability to perceive the hand of God in the ordinary as well as the challenging circumstances of life, and to respond to Him in love. An impressive manifestation of this was her ability not to get disheartened by the daunting hardships nor overcome by the sufferings of the evil that she witnessed daily. She deeply believed that God in His love could bring about a greater good even from apparent or real evil. In the midst of her own spiritual darkness, her unfaltering commitment to her mission and the constant smile that hid her pain attested to her deep faith that God, whom she no longer felt to be close, was still "in charge". This unshakable faith carried her through life. No matter how demanding it was, she remained serene, and even joyful. In fact, the darker the darkness, the more tenacious was her faith.

While her interior suffering mounted, her mission among the poor flourished. The expansion was rapid and global: In the first 25 years of their existence, the Missionaries of Charity had 704 sisters in 87 foundations, caring for thousands of the poorest of the poor – the dying, the orphans, the leprosy sufferers, the physically and mentally challenged, those who found themselves at the margins of society. In 1963, the Mother Teresa had also founded a branch for brothers. In 1976, the contemplative sisters were founded and 1977 saw the establishment of a branch of contemplative brothers. A branch for priests came into existence in 1983. At the time of her death there were 3842 MC (= Missionaries of Charity) Sisters in 594 foundations in 120 countries; 363 MC brothers in 68 foundations in 19 countries, 14 MC Contemplatives Brothers in 4 foundations in 3 countries and 13 MC Priests in 4 foundations in 3 countries. Her religious family also included diocesan priests and lay associates who desired to share in her mission of love.

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Odpovězte podle textu na otázky:

1. Které Ježíšovo slovo na kříži bylo zdrojem duchovní inspirace Matky Terezy z Kalkaty? Jak chápala svou odpověď na ně?
2. Jak se stavěla ke zdánlivému nebo skutečnému zlu ve svém životě?
3. Kolik větví řeholní rodiny celkem založila? Které to jsou ?