



Icons of Charity

“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

- James 1:27 (NKJV)

Mike E. Chukwu

Icons of Charity

Mike E. Chukwu

Designed and published on PDF by Mike E. Chukwu

Copyright © 2013

First Published on PDF in 2013

2nd Edition October 2016

The author permits you to share, broadcast, print, reproduce and communicate the information in this book in all possible formats. He wishes to retain the credit though.

Please direct all comments, corrections, disagreements and enquiries to the author via:

eeaumc@gmail.com

shidorshe@yahoo.com

Twitter.com/@eecmichael

Dedication

To the memory of those who have laboured and died for world peace and the welfare of humanity.

Acknowledgements

With immense joy I thank God almighty for his grace which has been always available, inspiring and supporting every good venture of mine. I'm deeply thankful to all persons whose wonderful deeds formed the basis of this book.

I respect and thank all authors – too many to mention – whose works helped me with necessary information. I am grateful to my friends in church, Lanre Soetan, Bukola Clement, Isaac Adhlakun, Adetokunbo Adewunmi, and the rest.

Many thanks to all who have worked with me, and all who will believe in this work.

Preface

I was not yet born when some of the things I captured here happened. But does it really matter? It gives me unbridled joy to read about these legends – men and women who touched many lives in many different ways. Great or small, only God has the accurate yardstick. All that matters is that they did it. And willingly too, even when it held pains for them, even when their lives were threatened by the very deeds they chose to do and kept doing. And all these were and still remain till date, to the glory of God. I call them **Icons of Charity**. What you may call them depends on you. But I know that their good deeds have touched the world in many positive ways. ‘Emulation is better than jealousy,’ I heard from a singer. I believe him. We can do more than these, only if and when we choose to. I welcome you to my little book of love, **Icons of Charity**. This is not an expressly creative work. I dare call it a documentary. And in this light I accept responsibility for all errors, omissions, etc. that may have occurred.

Mike E. Chukwu



**Saint ‘Mother’ Teresa
of Kolkata** Renowned Catholic
Nun

“The hunger for love is much
more difficult to remove than the
hunger for bread.”

~ Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa of

K...



Agnes Gogsha Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born in the town of Skopje in Yugoslavia (presently in Macedonia) on 26 August 1910, to Albanian parents. The youngest of three children, she grew up in the midst of poverty and war.

Mother Teresa of Kolkata

Deciding to become a nun after she completed her studies in Yugoslavia at 18, she joined Loreto Convent in Ireland on September 26, 1928, and there, she took the name Sister Teresa. She arrived in India in 1929 as a member of the Loreto Convent.

In 1931, she made her first vows and thereafter, taught as a teacher and nun for sixteen years at St. Mary's School, Entally, Kolkata. In 1937, she made her final commitment to God.



Mother Teresa of Kolkata

The sufferings of the people, which she saw at Motijheel – a slum in Kolkata, moved her deeply. There, lived the mentally retarded, the poorest of the poor, the sick, the orphans, and the handicapped.

Neglected and abandoned leprosy patients lying on the roadside drew her pity and concern. Thus she desired to dedicate her entire life to fight poverty, disease, hunger and ignorance.



“The fruit of faith is love, and the fruit of love is service.”

September 10, 1946 saw her traveling by train to Darjeeling, when she heard an inner voice: “*I thirst...*” as she wrote in her diary later, “*I knew it was God’s will and I had to follow him to those who had nowhere to lay their head – the naked, despised, forsaken, broken... There was no doubt it was to be God’s work... The message was quite clear... It was an order... I knew where I belonged but I didn’t know how to get there, how it would be accomplished, but to let myself be used by God in His way unknown to me.*” To her, it was a call within the call.

Mother Teresa of Kolkata

Thus began her journey into the demanding but neglected land of charity, mercy and love. On 16 August, 1948, she was permitted to leave Loreto Convent, and she moved to the slums of Kolkata



This great woman abandoned her life, her family, relations, etc., and stuck to her divine call with a tremendous spirit and physical display of zeal, dedication, commitment and love for God, which she always taught. After taking Indian citizenship in 1949, she lived the rest of her days in Kolkata, from where she reached out to the poor and the afflicted throughout the world.

Her efforts in living the love of Christ paid off greatly as she founded the *Missionaries of Charity* in Kolkata, in October 7, 1950, opened *Nirmal Hriday (Pure Heart)* home for the dying in 1952, *Shishu Bhavan (Children's Home)* – a home that saw to the ease of the plight of poor children – in 1955, as well as many other such homes and more than 125 leprosy centres around the world. At *Shishu Bhavan*, crippled and abandoned children are looked after permanently with love and care.

As a nun in India, she remained nearly sixty years away from Albania. Though the law in Albania considered religious worship punishable with death penalty, Mother Teresa moved the President into granting her permission to build six new churches in places previously used for profane purposes. She also opened a mosque for the Muslims!

“I would not give a baby from one of my homes for adoption to a couple who use contraception. People who use contraceptives do not understand love.”



“The greatest destroyer of peace is abortion because if a mother can kill her own child what is left but for me to kill you and you to kill me? There is nothing between.”

Mother simply believed that *“A dying child must be loved and comforted. No one must die alone and uncared for.”*

She was a living saint to anyone who met her – a woman of God; a perfect and aromatic blend of compassionate love, dedication, determination, tenderness and confidence. She characterized much faith and the efficacy of prayer through her expression of her love for God, in her love for the poor in a heroic way. ¹¹

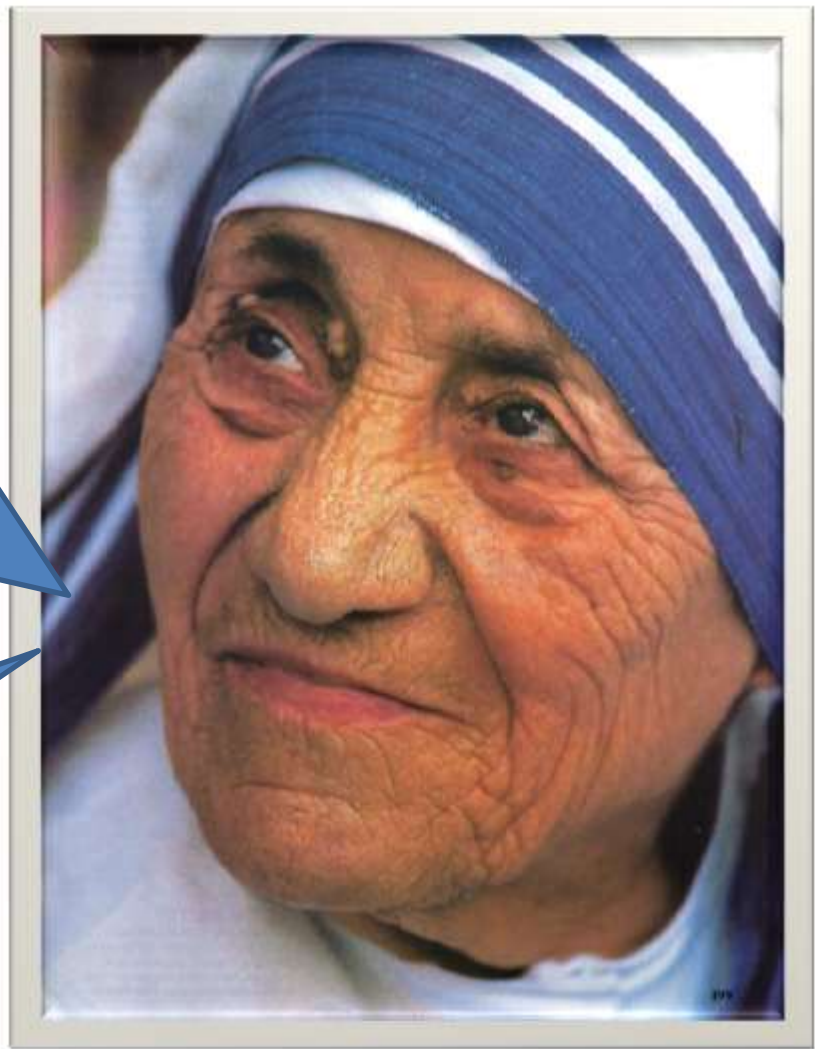
Truly, words may be insufficient to describe the virtues of this great nun who attracted lots of awards the world over, courtesy of her good deeds. Her awards include:

Mother Teresa of

lka

“God is the friend of silence. Trees, flowers, grass grow in silence. See the stars, moon and sun, how they move in silence.”

“Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty.”



1. *Padma Shri Award*, 1961, from the Indian government
2. *Magasay Award*, 1962
3. *Pope John XXIII Peace Award* from Pope Paul VI, 1971
4. *Good Samaritan Award*, 1971
5. *John F. Kennedy International Award*, 1971
6. *Nehru Award for International Awareness*, 1972
7. *Templeton Award* from Prince Philip, 1973
8. *Nobel Peace Prize*, 1979 (Her Greatest Award)
9. *Bhavat Ratna Award*, 1980 (The Civilian honour of India)
10. *Medal of Freedom*, 1985 (The highest US Civilian Award)

Mother Teresa of Kolkata

The Pope himself remarked of her, *“In Mother Teresa’s smile, words and deeds, Jesus again walked the streets of the world as the Good Samaritan.”*



“The poor are our brothers and sisters...people in the world who need love, who need care, who have to be wanted.”

Mother Teresa received honorary US citizenship in November 1996. Her book *A Simple Path* was published in 1995. Her career and journey of life was not without trauma many of which she survived. She had the privilege of receiving Pope John Paul II in Kolkata and some remarked of her, “*Mother Teresa is truly the Queen of Kolkata. Everyone obeys her, even the Pope.*”

On September 5, 1997, the world virtually stood still when Mother Teresa passed away due to cardiac arrest, aged 87. Time virtually stood still for this “*Queen of the Poor,*” “*Angel of Mercy,*” and “*Mother of the Oppressed,*” on September 13, 1997 when her body was raised onto the gun carriage (the same carriage that bore the mortal remains of Mahatma Gandhi, about 50 years before, and later, the body of Jawaharlal Nehru) by eight pall bearers of the Army’s Rajput Regiment. World leaders and representatives of the Pope were present at her state funeral.

Mother Teresa of Kolkata

Her greatest message according to Rt. Rev. Henry D'Souza, the then Archbishop of Kolkata was that *'all human life is precious in whatever condition it is found, "from the womb to the tomb."*



The mortal remains of this world citizen, *par excellence*, were laid to rest on September 13, 1997 in the Mother House, 54A, Lower Circular Road, Kolkata. Pope John Paul II began her canonization process in 17 August, 1998, in Rome, and beatified her in October, 2003, also in Rome. Considered one of the greatest humanitarians of all time, she was canonized Saint Teresa of Calcutta on 4 September 2016.

Only God knows when the world will have another Mother Teresa of Kolkata, the “*Saint of the Gutters!*”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Jan. 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968



Martin Luther King Jr

American Clergyman and Civil Rights Leader

“I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know...we as people will get to the Promised Land.”

~ Martin Luther King Jr

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

