



MODELS OF FAITH

Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa was born in Macedonia, in Eastern Europe, on August 26th, 1910. When she was 18 she left her home to join an order of Irish nuns named The Sisters of Loretto. She took her vows just before her 21st birthday in 1931, and began teaching at St. Mary's High School in Calcutta, India. Mother Teresa taught for 17 years until one day, in 1948, she realized her true calling was to help the poorest of the poor and in 1950 she was granted permission to begin an order of her own called the Missionaries of Charity. Its primary task was to love and care for those people nobody else looked after. This group of religious women would go into the slums of Calcutta and minister to the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the orphans. It was through this kind of work that Mother Teresa became known as the "Saint of the Gutters."

INSTRUCTIONS

To earn this patch, learn about Mother Teresa. Complete one activity from each section.

Although you may want to add this page to your Girl Scout or Camp Fire USA journal/scrapbook, you do not need to write out the answers.

If you are working together as a group or troop, have discussions and/or group activities. If you are working individually, include your family. If you are an older girls or boy, learn about Mother Teresa and teach younger children.

Once earned, Girl Scouts may place this patch on the back of the sash or vest.

Once you have learned about Mother Teresa, your leader, advisor, or parent may order the patch for you by visiting www.nfcym.org and clicking the "SHOP" link at the top of the page to access the store.

For All

- What else can you find out about Mother Teresa?
- Do you know how she became Blessed Mother Teresa ?
- In 1965 the missionaries of Charity became an international religious family. Find out in what other countries the missionaries serve. What do they do?
- Mother Teresa's work has been recognized and acclaimed throughout the world and she has received a number of awards and distinctions. What are some of these awards and what do they mean?

Create Your Own Activity

Mother Teresa realized that she wanted to begin a new order for her mission, for the mission of God, and therefore she went out and began the Missionaries of Charity. This model of Faith recognized that she needed to think a little outside the box and start something innovative.

So now it is your turn to start something new, something fresh; what are some activities you could do to share your knowledge of Mother Teresa with others? Would it be in your troop, your school, your parish, or maybe in your family?

Learn & Take Action

Saintly Service

Blessed Mother Teresa aided the poorest of the poor in her country the best way she could. Perform a service project that benefits the poor.

- What are some ways you can help the poor in your neighborhood, city, or state?
- Get your troop or family together and brainstorm some ideas.
- Would you help the hungry, maybe by working at a soup kitchen?
- Would you help the homeless, maybe by doing a coat drive?
- Help the lonely, maybe by spending some time at a shelter or sitting with another boy/girl at school who always sits alone?

The Power of a Smile

Mother Teresa spent much time praying and serving others, and always did so with a smile on her face. Smiling is good for the soul and the body; did you know it takes 43 muscles to frown and only 17 to smile? A smile is a great source of power. It can make everybody around you feel better, it can completely change a room, and it may even change lives. It is often said, "A smile is a curve that sets everything straight."

- What do you think about this?
- How have you seen your smile affect others?

- A Woman of Action and Voice
- In addition to all the work Mother Teresa did with her hands in Calcutta, she is also known for being a very well-spoken woman around the world. She was able to verbalize her thoughts and faith in such a beautiful yet simple manner. One of the main reasons Mother Teresa did what she did was because she had a profound love for life and believed all people should have the opportunity to live their lives to the fullest. She acted as a voice for those who did not have one. Most of the time, the best way Blessed Mother Teresa would Express herself was through prayer.
- With guidance of a grown-up go to www.motherteresa.org and research some of her preferred prayers.
- What are some of your favorite prayers? Words are a very powerful tool.
- How have words influenced you? How might your words influence others?

Why Is It?

The symbols on the Mother Teresa patch are her white sari and her welcoming smile.

Why do you think those symbols were chosen to represent Blessed Mother Teresa?

**Catholic Identity Patch Program is a project of the
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