

MOTHER TERESA

WITH
GREAT *Love*

Creative
Communications
Sample

28 Reflections from
SUSAN CONROY

Introduction

I first met Mother Teresa in 1986 when I was 21 years old. I had traveled across the world—from America to India—with the dream of working alongside this living saint, comforting the afflicted and serving our Lord. I literally showed up at Mother Teresa's doorstep to offer my "hands to serve and heart to love" the poorest of the poor with her and the Missionaries of Charity. I volunteered in the children's orphanage, taking care of abandoned and malnourished children and babies. I volunteered in Mother Teresa's famous Home for the Dying, where I helped to take care of sick and dying people whom we literally lifted up off the streets of Calcutta. These experiences changed the course of my life! I interacted with Mother Teresa until she was called home to God in 1997. I shared visits with her both in Calcutta as well as in the South Bronx, New York where I helped to serve *our* country's poorest of the poor. Mother Teresa and I also kept in touch by letter throughout the years.

In the following pages, I will share with you some of the wisdom and lessons of love that I learned from Mother Teresa. What a sweet privilege it was to witness firsthand so much goodness, tenderness, faithfulness and love!

This booklet offers just a glimpse of the "great love" that I experienced while working and corresponding with Mother Teresa. By presenting Divine Wisdom via a Scripture passage each day, Mother Teresa's inspiring words in the form of short quotes and my own reflections based on those words, it is my sincere hope that your faith will be enriched. I also hope and pray that you will see more clearly that the messages of Mother Teresa are the messages of Jesus. The impact that this woman, now one of the church's newest saints, had on the world in the twentieth century is hard to quantify. But there is little doubt that she brought hearts and minds closer to our Lord through both her example and her actions as she went about "doing small things with great love." And there is no doubt that we are called, in our own way, to do the same.

May Mother Teresa help us from above,

Susan Conroy

DAY 1

“We are precious to him. That man dying in the street—precious to him. That millionaire—precious to him. That sinner—precious to him. Because he loves us.”

During that first summer in India in 1986, Mother Teresa asked me to draw a picture of a child in the palm of God’s hands and include these words which she loved so much. I put my whole heart into creating this drawing. Before I had it framed, I asked her if she wanted me to make any changes to it. I was so surprised to see her take a pencil and begin to write on my drawing! I was filled with panic—she was going to ruin it! But, within seconds, I said to myself, “Susan, this is Mother Teresa! Even if she scribbles all over your hard work, it’s okay. This is Mother Teresa!”



On each of the fingers, she wrote the words that Jesus had said—words which served as the inspiration for the work that she and the Missionaries of Charity were doing for the most destitute and vulnerable: “You did it to Me.” How deeply she believed our Lord when he assured us that whatsoever we do to the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the suffering, the unwanted, the unloved, we do unto Christ himself. That is why she served the suffering with so much humility and tenderness, with perseverance and faithfulness, with reverence and respect.

Can a mother forget her infant,

be without tenderness for the child of her womb?

Even should she forget,

I will never forget you.

See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you. ISAIAH 49:15-16

DAY 2

“My prayer for you is that you may grow more and more in his likeness through love and compassion and so become an instrument of peace.”

This is the whole goal of our existence—to grow more and more in the likeness of our Lord Most High. We are his. We belong to him. We were made in his image and likeness—in his beautiful, holy, loving image and likeness!—and he is longing to restore us to that glorious resemblance. “If only we let him do it,” Mother Teresa used to say, “He does it in a beautiful way.” God is love and compassion. He is pure,



Mother Teresa works with a sister from her order at the famous Home for the Dying in 1986. (Photo by Susan Conroy)

infinitely good and merciful. Mother Teresa would urge us to “give God permission” to make us holy again. With the help of God’s grace and love, you will “be Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy. LEVITICUS 19:2

DAY 3

“The time you spend with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven...”

Come to Christ. Spend time with him. Draw near to our Lord while you still can. Come into his presence with joy and gladness, with complete confidence in his goodness and mercy. In beautiful and glorious ways, his Holy Spirit will rub off on you! The great Saint Teresa of Avila used to say that “in the company of the saints, we will become saints.” In the company of the Holy One himself, may we become more holy and filled with his own Divine goodness. It is exciting to realize that the company we have within us is his Divine Majesty himself. If only we would conduct ourselves each day with the perpetual awareness of his loving and almighty presence within the abode of our own hearts and souls, we would be saints. May we strive to be holy and blameless in his sight all the days of our lives.

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

MATTHEW 11:28

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Celebrate one of the Church's newest saints with this unique peek into the personal letters of Mother Teresa, allowing yourself to grow closer to Jesus through her example. The spirituality of Mother Teresa shines through her daily quotes as her humility, compassion and, yes, great love become more evident each day. Featuring reflections written by Susan Conroy, a Catholic author who knew Mother Teresa and worked beside her with the poorest of the poor, *With Great Love* also provides a Scripture passage each day. Just as Mother Teresa was small in stature but great in influence, this small booklet can have a huge impact on your prayer life.

This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on **amazon**kindle and **nook**