

Dedication of the Stamp to Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta 9/5/10

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta is one of those extraordinary individuals whose life and language overflowed beyond her own Catholic community to the broader human family. While being well known among the many, young and old, who shared her faith, Mother Teresa has also become a prominent figure of popular culture. To mention the name of Mother Teresa conjures up the nobility of charity and the power of goodness to overcome all despair and hatred.

The story of her profound prayerful devotion to the weak and vulnerable of society transcended Andy Warhol's "15 minutes of fame" to become a brilliant undimmed beacon of hope for humanity. Her memory reminds us of all the good we are capable of doing. In her loving service we see not just a "nice person". We recognize someone who was determined to do good in the face of overwhelming despair. She was a mighty voice of compassion for the most vulnerable and despised among us, the poor in the streets of Calcutta, the unborn in the mother's womb, those afflicted with AIDS, and even those languishing on death row.

In society today, it is perhaps easier to recognize the good that she did, while the reason for all that she did, is often ignored or dismissed. Would one even suggest that Mother Teresa of Calcutta was imposing her religion through her charity? Was her message of love and human dignity an intrusion into public discourse? I am delighted that her heroic testimony is being honored by the United States Postal Service with the issuance of this stamp. Her words as well as her work have already made a stamp upon our society. May her example be sealed on our heart and pressed upon our conscience. What she has done we are still capable of doing.