



Saint Teresa of Calcutta

(1910-1997, Albania & India)

Feast: September 5

Virtue: Mercy

“At the end of our lives, we will not be judged by...how many great things we have done. We will be judged by ‘I was hungry and you gave me to eat. I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless and you took me in.’ ” Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born in the country of Albainia and left home at age 18 to join the Sisters of Loreto as a missionary. By 1929, she was assigned to a girls’ school in Calcutta, India, where she spent many happy years teaching.

It was in 1946 that she experienced an encounter with Christ that led her to dedicate her life to serving the poorest of the poor in imitation of the mercy of Jesus. With permission, she left her religious community, trading the habit of the Sisters of Loreto for a plain white sari bordered with blue. Very soon, young Indian women came to join her—including some of her former students—and her new community became known as the Missionaries of Charity would spread the mercy of Christ throughout the world, attending to the needs of the most abandoned and neglected or our brothers and sisters.

Virtues in Practice

Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia Congregation

Nashville, Tennessee