DOROTHY *Day* was a Convert

Dorothy Day began as something like the 1920's version of a hipster, living a bohemian lifestyle in New York's Greenwich Village, drifting in and out of love affairs, and engaging in social activism in socialist and anarchist circles. However, her interest in religion began to grow, and to the dismay of her friends she converted to Catholicism in 1927.

Though no longer a socialist, she was still deeply concerned by the plight of the poor, and so along with Peter Maurin, she founded the Catholic Worker movement, dedicating herself to faithful activism aimed at putting Catholic social teaching into practice.

"Our rule is the works of mercy," said Dorothy Day. "It is the way of sacrifice, worship, a sense of reverence."

Members of the Catholic Worker Movement believe in:

- gentle personalism of traditional Catholicism.
- personal obligation of looking after the needs of our brother.
- daily practice of the Works of Mercy.
- houses of hospitality for the immediate relief of those who are in need.
- establishment of Farming Communes where each one works according to his ability and receives according to his need.
- creating a new society within the shell of the old with the philosophy of the new.

Well over 200 communities exist today, including several in Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Mexico, New Zealand, and Sweden.

Dorothy Day's cause is currently open for canonization.

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