



Holy Martyrs | St. Jude | St. Gregory the Great | Sacred Heart

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

February 5, 2023

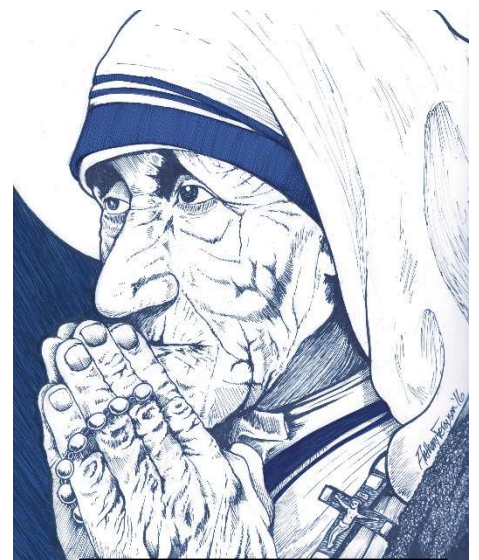
### Next Series: On Mother Teresa

Back in August, I announced that we would be offering two speaking series this year. The first took place in October when we discussed On Dying. The second is coming up in March and will be on Mother Teresa.

Why Mother Teresa? First, in the surveys we put out, many people showed interest in having some kind of discussion about social justice. While memory of Mother Teresa is fading, most people who have heard of her know one thing about her: that she cared for the poorest of the poor in Calcutta, India. In that sense, Mother Teresa is a prominent and thoroughly Catholic answer to the question of how our society should care for the least among us. But because Mother Teresa was thoroughly Catholic, her answer to the question (and practical approach) was significantly different from most. I thought it would be worth looking at how.

Second, Mother Teresa's example ignited a spark of faith in the hearts of a lot of people (my own included, although through the medium of a book). Mother Teresa is not just an example of someone who founded homeless shelters and helped people out of poverty, but she had a deep love of God and radiated that love everywhere she went. Her words had a simplicity about them that cut to the heart of the issue (and frequently surprised her interlocutors with their frankness). She changed my way of seeing the world, and my hope is that you might get to experience that too.

Third, with Mother Teresa none of this is pie in the sky. The proof is in the pudding as they say and because Mother Teresa lived so recently, we have the testimony of a lot of people on the fruits of her labors. None of this was just theory; it had real practical results. For instance, I used to volunteer at Queen of Peace Shelter in the Bronx with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. It was an aptly named place because there was a palpable, supernatural sense of peace that reigned over that building. Outside was the south Bronx, inside things were still and quiet. I remember Sister Tereslina telling me, "You know, outside, I would be afraid of these men. But inside here, they melt and are just like little children." That was true; the men acted towards the Sisters with the docility and affection of children for their mother. The proof was in the pudding: the poverty, prayer, and love with which the Sisters lived had a real effect. See times and dates to the right.



Sketch by: Fr. Anthony Ferguson

– Joe Moreshead

[Recorded presentations available here.](#)