

# Mother Teresa Fact File

Mother Teresa was one of the most significant figures of the 20th century. She felt her calling from God was to help the sick and needy people of India. Working almost up until her death in 1997, she remains an inspiration to people all over the world.

## Early Life

She was born on August 26th 1910 and given the name Agnes. Her place of birth was what is now known as the modern day city of Skopje, the capital city of the Republic of North Macedonia. Agnes was raised by her mother as her father died when she was only eight years old.

## Devotion to God

She was from a Roman Catholic family and devoted her life to God from a very young age. At 18, Agnes joined the Sisters of Loreto to become a missionary in India. She was based in Darjeeling and had to learn the language so that she could be a teacher at a nearby school. Agnes then took her first vows as a nun and became known as Teresa.

At 36, she felt a calling from God and went to help the sick and the needy of India. Agnes had very little support and often went hungry herself. She once said, 'God doesn't require us to succeed, he only requires that you try'. Her words and cause inspired others to join her, therefore the Missionaries of Charity began.

## Awards and Achievements

Later in her life, Mother Teresa was awarded many honours for her work, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She turned down the prize winner's banquet, asking that the money for this grand occasion went to those who needed it more.

She received India's highest civilian award in 1980 and Albania's international airport is named after her.

## Her Death

She died on the 5th September 1997 in Calcutta, India. Mother Teresa was given a large funeral by the Indian government, in

**Name:**

Agnes

**Born:**

August 26th 1910

**Place of Birth:**

Republic of North  
Macedonia

**Died:**

5th September 1997



appreciation of all of her work. People from all over the world mourned her death.

## Her Legacy

Today, her legacy continues through the Missionaries of Charity, which now has over 4500 nuns who care for people all over the world. The organisation runs schools, soup kitchens and homes for orphaned children. All of these services are free.

This extraordinary woman will always be remembered for the love and care that she showed to many people in her lifetime. She once said, 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love.'

In 2003, Pope John Paul II began the process of making Mother Teresa a saint. Her official title, given to her by the Catholic Church, is Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.



Photo courtesy of (archer10, Peta\_de\_Astlan@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

# Mother Teresa Questions

1. When she was born, what name was she given?

---

---

2. At what age did she join the Sisters of Loreto?

---

---

3. Explain her calling from God.

---

---

4. Having won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, why did Mother Teresa turn down the prize winner's banquet?

---

---

5. List two of the many things that the Missionaries of Charity does to help people.

---

---

6. What is her official name, given to her by the Catholic Church?

---

---

7. How do you think she will be remembered?

---

---

# Mother Teresa Answers

1. When she was born, what name was she given?

**When she was born, she was named Agnes.**

2. At what age did she join the Sisters of Loreto?

**She joined at the age of 18.**

3. Explain her calling from God.

**She felt her calling from God was to help the sick and poor people of India.**

4. Having won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, why did Mother Teresa turn down the prize winner's banquet?

**She turned down the prize winner's banquet, asking that the money which would have been used to pay for such an expensive occasion, go to those who need it more.**

5. List two of the many things that the Missionaries of Charity does to help people.

**Any two - The organisation runs schools /soup kitchens /homes for orphaned children.**

6. What is her official name, given to her by the Catholic Church?

**The name given to her by the Catholic Church is Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.**

7. How do you think she will be remembered?

**Own answers**