

Mother Teresa's Beliefs?



Mother Teresa

She was not rich or glamorous, yet royalty and world leaders enjoyed visiting her and were proud to receive visits from her.

Some people believed she 'became the most powerful woman in the world'.

What could this statement mean?

Mother Teresa

This was because when she asked to see or speak to presidents or prime ministers around the world, they made time to speak to her. They listened to what she had to say and had great respect for her work among the poor.



Mother Teresa



Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa was born in Albania in 1910. Her real name was Agnes Gonxha and she had a younger brother and sister.

Religion was very important to Mother Teresa and her family, she was a Roman Catholic. She remembers her mother always telling her, to love God and her neighbours.

She took a great interest in helping out in her church and was particularly interested in the missionaries working in India.



Mother Teresa



At the age of 12 she felt that God was calling her to be a nun. She had to wait 6 years until she was 18, before she could become a nun.

In 1928, when she was only 18 Agnes travelled to Loreto Abbey in Ireland to learn English and begin her life as a Loreto nun.

After two months in Ireland she moved over to India to live in the Loreto convent over there.

Mother Teresa



Thinking time...

Tell the person next to you 3 things
you know about India

Together create 3 questions about
India

Mother Teresa - her vows.

When she was 21, Agnes took her first vows.

When she took her vows, she gave up the life she could have lived as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu.

She needed a new name for her new life, so she adopted the religious name Teresa.



Mother Teresa began teaching Geography at one of the Loreto schools.

She loved her job, but couldn't stop thinking about the poor people outside of the school walls.

Whenever she had time, she visited the slums with medicines and gifts.



Thinking time...

What is a slum?

Why do people live in slums?

Does everybody in India live in a slum?

Mother Teresa -Day of inspiration

On 10th September 1946 after 17 happy years as a Loreto Sister her life suddenly changed. Sister Teresa thought she heard the voice of God, she always remembered it as her

'day of inspiration'.

Mother Teresa - Day of inspiration

God spoke to her and told her she must work with the poor in the slums. When she returned she asked permission from the Nuns. They said it was too dangerous and refused.

It would be two years later until she would be given the decision she wanted.

Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa gave up her convent habit and dressed like a poor Indian woman.

She realised that she would need medical skills to help the poor and spent four months on a short nursing course.



Life in the slums.

Mother Teresa was shocked when she first entered the slums.

Many people had no homes; the lucky ones lived under old sacks. Many had only rags to wear, hunger and disease were everywhere.

Dirt, grime, rubbish, waste, poverty, despair...

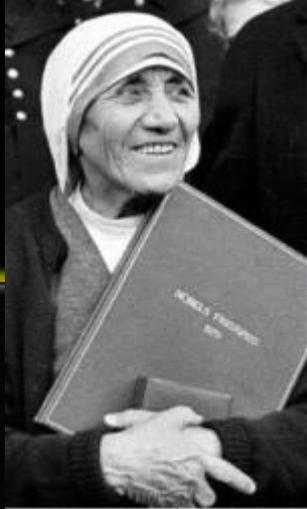


What she did

She had just 5 rupees (about 40p) in her pocket when she went into the slums.

She began by starting a school on the street. She used the dusty ground as her blackboard and a stick as her chalk. When people heard what she was doing they sent gifts for her school.

Others joined her to support and help and her school became a place of safety and hope.



Nobel Peace Prize



Mother Teresa and her sisters helped the people of Calcutta unconditionally.

As the years went on the work Mother Theresa was doing began to be noticed by leaders all over the world.

In 1979, Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. When she heard the news she replied 'I accept this award in the name of the poor.'

September the 5th 1997



On September 5th 1997,
Mother Teresa died. All
her life she had been
inspired by Jesus' words
'Love one another as I
have loved you.'

These words are carved
on her grave. Almost half
a million people of all
religions came to say a
final goodbye.

