

Nuns in the Missions

Pray that nuns working in the missions may be joyful examples of Jesus' love.



Last month Pope Benedict asked us to pray for priests and the hard work they do to teach people about God. This month the Pope wants us to pray for nuns.

Nuns are women who work for God. Like priests, they make promises to live their lives serving Jesus. Nuns usually live in communities with other nuns. They make a promise of poverty, which means that they can't own anything. Everything they have belongs to their community.

Nuns have many different jobs. Some nuns live in monasteries, and their main job is to pray. They make sure that someone in their monastery is praying at all times. Nuns in monasteries may bake and sell bread, sew blankets, do artwork, or make candy to raise money for their community and the Church.

Some nuns care for the poor and the sick. They run hospitals and clinics. They give shelter to people who don't have homes and take care of children who have lost their parents.

Some nuns are teachers. Many nuns teach little children in schools all over the world. Some nuns teach grown-ups in colleges.

But ALL nuns have the job of living life joyfully and being good examples of the love of Jesus. The Pope knows that this is most important in the missions, where there are many poor and sick people, and many more who are just starting to learn about God. Nuns who are kind and joyful show people what is good about being Christian. But their work is not always easy. Missionary nuns work in faraway places, away from friends and family. They see sad things, like people who are sick, hurt, or homeless. Sometimes nuns might need a little extra help from God to be joyful, and that's why we need to pray for them.

Think about it!

- What are some of the different jobs that nuns do?
- Why is it important for nuns in the missions to be joyful?
- Would you ever be a priest or nun?

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Blessed Teresa of Calcutta



The Pope wants us to pray this month for nuns who work in the missions - that they may be joyful Christians. Here is the story of a nun who was a great example of the love of Jesus.

Mother Teresa was born on August 26, 1910 in Macedonia. Her parents named her Agnes. She was the youngest of three children in a very close family.

At the age of twelve Agnes already knew she wanted to help the poor. When she became a teenager, she saw news stories of the work being done by missionary priests in India. When she was eighteen, Agnes was old enough to start studying to become a nun, choosing the name Teresa. Sr. Teresa studied in Ireland and India, and

became a nun in 1937.

One of Sr. Teresa's first jobs was to teach in a girls' high school in India. Even though most of the students were rich, the school was near a poor part of the city. Sr. Teresa could see the poor people from her classroom, and it made her sad that she couldn't help them.

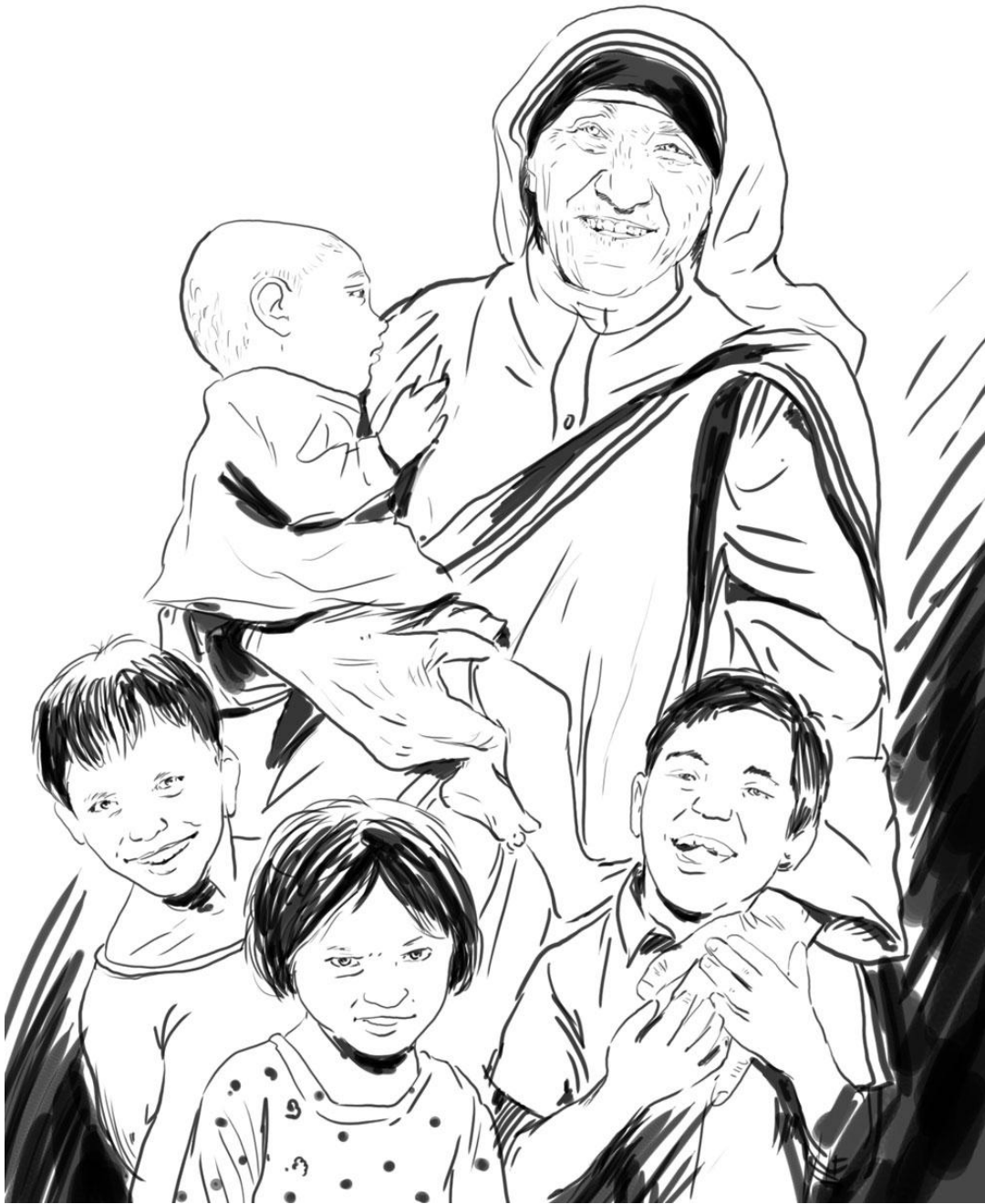
In 1946 Sr. Teresa heard God telling her to start her own group of nuns to live among the poor and to help them. The Pope gave her permission, and she started her work by gathering the poor children in Calcutta, India and teaching them. Many people came to volunteer, and with more nuns joining her, she started working with the sick and with orphans.

When Mother Theresa died in 1997, her group had more than 600 places all over the world that were working to help the very poor, the suffering, and the dying. She lived her whole life joyfully showing millions of people the love of Jesus.

We pray that Mother Teresa, watching her workers from heaven, may show them how to treat others with the same love that Jesus would.

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Mother Teresa, on earth you were a joyful example of God's love.

From heaven, show other nuns how to be like you.

**Help them to show the love of Jesus to others as they teach,
pray, treat the sick, and help the poor.**

Amen.