Faith Filled People

February

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Born in Yugoslavia in 1910, Agnes would someday be called "Mother Teresa." Agnes knew by the time she was 13 years old that God wanted her to help the poor. She became Sister Agnes of the Loreto Sisters. She taught high school for the order in Calcutta, India for 20 years. She liked her students and they liked her, but Sr. Agnes knew the poor people really needed help. After teaching, she took care of sick and dying people in their homes.

Many women joined Sister Agnes. They wanted to love the poor people in Calcutta. Many of these people were dying and had no one to love or care for them. The women formed a group, Missionaries of Charity. Sister Agnes would now be called Mother Teresa. The sisters of this group found dying people in the streets. They brought them to their house. They hugged them, fed them, and prayed with them until they died.

Mother Teresa believed in dignity, or value, for all people. Especially the poor need to know God's love. She also believed in the dignity of work. The sisters did not use any machines because they believed that people felt more worthwhile working with their hands. Mother Teresa and the other Sisters of Charity wanted to work without people noticing them. But the world began to notice these special women and their work. In 1979 Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize. Even though she won many awards and people kept wanting to meet her, she went about her humble work. She said, "We can do no great things. Only small things with great love." This is a good thing for us to remember, too. We may be small, but our big love can help others.