



**From the Pastor's Desk:
Happy Birthday Mother Teresa... we can learn so much about living from this magnificent woman of faith in action.**

Papal Message for Mother Teresa's 100th Birthday

"Christ's 'Thirst for Souls' Is Quenched by Your Ministry"

VATICAN CITY, AUG. 26, 2010 (Zenit.org).- Here is a translation of the message Benedict XVI sent to the Missionaries of Charity on the occasion of today's 100th anniversary of the birth of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, founder of the order. **The message was directed to the superior-general of the order, Sister Mary Prema.**

"I send cordial greetings to you and to all the Missionaries of Charity at the start of the celebrations of the centenary of the birth of Blessed Mother Teresa, founder of your order and exemplary model of Christian virtues. I trust that this year will be for the Church and for the world an occasion of fervent gratitude to God for the invaluable gift that Mother Teresa was in the course of her life and that she continues to be through the loving and tireless work that you, her spiritual daughters, carry out.

To prepare for this year, you have sought to come closer to the person of Jesus, whose thirst for souls is quenched by your ministry for him among the poorest of the poor. Having responded with trust to the direct call of the Lord, Mother Teresa exemplified excellently the words of St. John: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. ... [I]f we love one another, God remains in us and his love is brought to perfection in us" (1 John 4:11-12).

May this love continue to inspire you, Missionaries of Charity, to give yourselves generously to Jesus, to all those you see and serve, that is, to the poor, the marginalized, and the abandoned. I encourage you to draw constantly from the spirituality and the example of Mother Teresa and, following in her footsteps, to accept Christ's invitation: "Come and be my light."

CALCUTTA, India, AUG. 25, 2010 (Zenit.org). - Mother Teresa of Calcutta did not focus on conversions to Catholicism, but rather on loving Jesus and transmitting that love to those around her. Nevertheless, the current superior-general of her order affirms that many Hindus have changed their lives due to even fleeting contact with the saintly nun.

As part of the celebrations surrounding Thursday's 100th anniversary of Mother Teresa's birth, German-born **Sister Mary Prema**, superior-general of the Missionaries of Charity, spoke with the Fides news agency through the mediation of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Austria.

Sister Prema was asked if "mission" implied for Mother Teresa "conversion" to Catholicism.

"Mother Teresa wanted everyone to know and love Jesus," Sister Prema replied. "She was convinced that every soul desires Jesus' salvation, whether or not he realizes it. The work of conversion, however, remains a work of God. It is not our task. Only God can convert a soul. Mother Teresa dedicated her own life to the task of loving Jesus and transmitting this love to those around her. That was her only goal."

Conveying this experience of Jesus is the legacy the nun left, according to her successor.

"Through her life, her work, her charisma, she brought those around her to God. She did not preach, but she testified with her own life," Sister Prema said. "Even today, many people tell me of their first meeting with Mother Teresa. Perhaps they had seen her for five minutes on the terrace of our motherhouse. But that one moment changed their lives forever.

"Oftentimes a phrase, a kind word was enough. Many of these people are Hindus. They have not converted to Christianity since they met Mother Teresa. However, they began to see their lives and their work with different eyes and have become other people, living in a different way, based on love and mercy, within their own families. There are many examples."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOTHER TERESA! We will try to imitate your love of Jesus... pray for us and our ministries at DLPH.

May God +bless you and yours now and forever.

Father Anthony