



Toronto Diocese

Toronto diocese, has accepted **Blessed Mother Teresa** as an exemplar extraordinaire of the works of mercy. She was born August 26th, 1910 in Macedonia and at 18 joined the Loreto nuns in Ireland. From 1931 to 48 she served Christ's teaching ministry at St. Mary's High School in Calcutta and by 1950, she founded the Missionaries of Charity to do Christ's healing ministry. She died September 5th, 1997, was beatified November, 2003, and will be canonized Sept 4th, 2016¹.

Blessed Mother Teresa did everything as an extraordinary act of GOD's LOVE. . Every person was approached as a '**disguised suffering Christ**' and she lived by Matthew's gospel, "In ...

so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."^{2;3}

Knowing this and accepting the Papal call for the Jubilee of Mercy, Toronto CWL utilized the three pillars of spiritual care to emulate Blessed Mother Teresa's works of mercy and the results were amazing:

1. **RE: THE POWER OF PRAYER:** and the spiritual work of mercy '**To pray for the living and the dead**' – Blessed Mother Teresa began every day very early with the Holy Mass and Prayer¹.

Toronto Spiritual Advisors and Spiritual Development chairs encouraged members to pray for the two main issues of 'Persecution of Christians and Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. They asked them to join their voices in prayer in parishes and/or with evangelical and Christian churches. One good example was the '12 hrs of Prayer' encouraged by national CWL May 4th during National Palliative Care week and when our Canadian MPs' were doing the 3rd reading of Bill C-14.

2. Re: **ADVOCACY FOR THE VULNERABLE:**

- (A) Blessed Mother Teresa's extraordinary efforts in advocacy resulted in her winning the Nobel Peace prize in 1979¹. Toronto CWL called members to action on '**Educating the Uninformed,**' '**Counseling the Doubtful**' and '**Bearing wrongs patiently**';

This resulted in educational 'End of Life' sessions with the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute (CCBI), the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC), the Catholic Civil Rights League (CCRL), The Toronto Catholic Doctors Guild (TCDG) and the Christian Medical Dental Society (CMDS). The national CWL sub -theme fueled discussion with Canadians about

'Palliative and Hospice Care' being the TRUE option until natural death. Members joined the **'Coalition for Health CARE and CONSCIENCE'** from across the country and followed direction to write letters and call or visit all levels of government.

- (B) Councils, assessed parish needs and strove to follow Mother Teresa's guidance in **"-feeding the hungry**, not only with food, but with the Word of God
- **giving drink to the thirsty**; not only for water but for knowledge, peace, truth, justice and love
 - **clothing the naked**; not only with clothes but with human dignity
 - **giving shelter to the homeless**; not only a shelter made of bricks but a heart that understands, that covers that loves"³⁻⁵
- Newsletter submissions shared these stories with others.

3. RE: JOURNEYING TOGETHER TO FIND RESTORATIVE MEANING:

Our secular society continues to provide roadblocks to caring as Blessed Mother Teresa did and the Missionaries of Charity continue to do:

"- **nursing the sick and dying**; not only for the body but also for the mind and spirit" Blessed Mother Teresa mandates that all of us have "a very **simple duty** ... **[We] must put [our] love for God in a living action**".²⁻⁵

Moving forward, Toronto Diocese challenges all CWL members and like minded faith-filled ministries and organizations to do our **'simple duty'** together. Let's figure out a way to see and to serve the **'DISGUISED SUFFERING CHRIST'** in everyone we encounter with **ONE HEART, ONE VOICE AND ONE UNITED MISSION** for **GOD AND**

Shirley Christo, President,
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Reference List

- (1) Kolodiejchuk B. Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light: The Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta. 1st ed. New York: Random House Inc.; 2007.
- (2) Kolodiejchuk B. Where There Is Love, There Is God: Her Path to Closer Union with God and Greater Love for Others - Mother Teresa. 1 ed. New York: Random House Inc.; 2010.
- (3) Matthew. Bible. http://www.catholic.org/bible/book.php?bible_chapter=25&id=47 [2016 [cited 2016 July 3]; 25:[V40]
- (4) Kolodiejchuk B, Mother Teresa. A Call to Mercy: Hearts to Love, Hands to Serve. 1st ed. New York: Random House Inc; 2016.
- (5) Source. Suffering. <http://www.suffering.net/servmo-t.htm> [2016 [cited 2016 July 3];