



## **MOTHER TERESA**

### ***Introduction:***

Mother Teresa as her real name was 'Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu' was born in a middle – class Albanian family in shopje on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1910. Skopje lies within Macedonia, a small country just in Greece. She was called Gonxha as her childhood name. Her father died when she was only nine years old.

Her father was a businessman and a member of the community council. Gonxha was the youngest child among her sibling Aga and Lazar. Her mother raised a Roman Catholic family and was dedicated to the religious education of her children.

### ***Early Life of Mother Teresa:***

After the death of her father, her mother brought her up as Roman Catholic. Agnes at the age of twelve first felt a calling to religious life. Her fascination with the lives of missionaries and service led her to live in her parental home at age of eighteen. After completing of school education, Agnes became a nun at the age of 18. She joined the sister of Loreto, an Irish community of nuns, who were active in India. She followed Christ's community and served the poor and needy who came to her with respect and practiced charitable ways.

Due to her serving the poor with Kindness, her name was changed to Teresa. She received some initial training in Dublin, Ireland. She arrived in India in 1928. She took her first religious focus in 1928 and finally in 1937. She came to India as a teacher at St. Mary's high school in Entally, Calcutta.

### ***Her Selfless work for the poor and helpless:***

Mother Teresa felt that her fight would have to be against poverty, disease and ignorance. In 1948, Teresa felt compelled to leave the comfort of her consent. To devote herself exclusively to working with the poor in the slums of Calcutta, Teresa went to the slums regularly with food and medicine and started teaching the slum children. Mother Teresa replaced her traditional Loreto habit with a simple white cotton sari decorated with a blue line when she started Venturing into the slums. In 1948, She acquired Indian citizenship. In 1950, she got permission from the Vatican to start the missionaries of charity. The mission of this charity was to care for the hungry, the homeless, the crippled, and all those who felt unwanted, unsolved and uncared for throughout society. She opened a home orphans and abandoned children.



***Expansion of her work all over the world:***

Mother Teresa expanded her work by establishing 750 centers in 250 countries. There running various orphanages, AIDS hospices. In 1971, she opened a home for rape victims I Bangladesh. By 2007, the Missionaries of Charity numbered about 450 brothers and 5000 sisters worldwide, operating 600 missions, schools and shelters in 120 countries. She raised her powerful voice against abortion, divorce and contraception. She received many national and international awards for her humanitarian work.

***Demise of Mother Teresa:***

Teresa suffered her first heart attack while meeting Pope John Paul II in Rome in 1983 and the second nearly fatal in 1989. At the age of 87, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1997, Teresa died.

***Conclusion:***

Mother Teresa will be remembered for her spirit of love, service, charity and compassion which motivates us to guide and help the people who feel unwanted, unresolved and uncared for throughout society.

Her charity was asked to come to help people in various corners of the world, so it can be declared with the assurance that Mother Teresa was a citizen of the world, as she genuinely aspired to help people everywhere.

**M.Nithya.**