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DCCW
ANNUAL
RETREAT TO
BE HELD
MARCH 21,09

MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA



MOTHER TERESA AND POPE JOHN PAUL

[Mother Teresa Story](#)

[Author Susan Conroy](#)

[Summary by Jean Young](#)

Susan Conroy was a keynote speaker at the September, 2007 National Council of Catholic Women's Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

At the young age of 21, Susan Conroy was able to accomplish her dream and make her first journey to India in 1986. When she arrived at Mother Theresa's doorstep in Calcutta, she knew in her heart that she was about to experience what would impact the rest of her life. She would gain a deeper understanding of what life was all about and would grow to love her Christian Faith. Susan believed that Mother Theresa was a living Saint.

She was eager to go that first summer to meet her and to see her love in action and especially to learn all she could from her. She was welcomed by Mother Theresa with open arms and she would soon learn that before going into the slums and poverty stricken streets of Calcutta, that she would need to come with "Hands to serve", Heart to Love, and must come with a smile. "Come with joy to do the humble work even in the face of death". Mother Theresa believed that all people share the universal language of love---TOUCH AND SMILE. Susan began caring for orphans, and for the dying in shelters, for AIDS patients and for those inflicted with leprosy. Mother Theresa wanted everyone to know that when we go about touching, serving and caring with tenderness, humility and love we would touch Jesus himself.

It was from Mathew 25:40 that the Missionaries of Charity began. "What you did to the least of my brothers, you did onto me". One day while Susan was caring for a man in the home for the dying, the man suddenly became peaceful and quiet in her arms, when she realized that he had died, she began to cry. Mother Theresa came right to her side and helped close his eyes, fold his hands and take care of him. Mother Theresa looked into Susan's eyes and said "you have received many graces for this". She learned that God looks into our hearts to see the value of our deeds. We are not necessarily called to do great things in the world, only "small things with great love".

Susan always felt that her experiences with Mother Theresa and her Missionaries of Charity were a gift from God, and they were meant to be shared. This resulted in her first book of which she published, entitled MOTHER THERESA'S---LESSONS OF

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LOVE, SECRETS OF SANCTITY." Mother Theresa counseled Susan Conroy to write her story "for God's glory and for the good of souls and to undertake this project "with Jesus and for Jesus" and to ask the Blessed Virgin Mother to guide her writings.

Many people have shared how this book has changed their own perspective on life and that they were starving to hear more about God and the many spiritual lessons she had learned by being in the presence of the most humble and gracious Mother Theresa.

In her first letter home, she admits to staying strong and healthy and keeping her spirits high. Calcutta is like a black pit, a poverty stricken, disease-filled, miserable place, but the work makes it beautiful.

Susan shared that the people in the Home for the Dying, the mentally handicapped, the seriously ill, and the children sometimes possess such joy and peace. Susan could see and feel what Mother Theresa knew and lived. She would walk through the worst slums singing to her and smiling inside. "It is awesome to find such joy in the midst of such ugliness".

Mother Theresa taught there was no need to fear as God always provides everything we need--we are only to trust and believe. There is no work too lowly and no training was necessary--the most important qualification was "love".

When the work was difficult, Mother Theresa would think of those who were sick and suffering and she would tell God "Look at my suffering children, and for their love bless this work". The response was always immediate, she said. Mother Theresa said it so beautifully, "everything God does, everything He ever did, everything He will ever do is for Love. Just allow people to see Jesus in you, to see how you pray, to see how you

lead a pure life, to see how you deal with your family as you experience that peace within. This is the way you speak from life, you speak from experience".

In the home for the dying, Mother Theresa wanted everyone to die at peace with God and in the sight of a loving face. I learned that the greatest disease in this world is being a nobody to everybody. We must love one another as Jesus loves. When asked about coming to India, Mother Theresa would often say, "stay where you are, find your own Calcutta".

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