

# A Ministry of Mercy

Mother Teresa, a Roman Catholic nun and missionary, was a controversial figure during her life and after her death in 1997.

In 1950, she founded the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic religious organization that had more than 4,500 sisters and was active in 133 countries in 2012. The congregation manages homes for people dying of HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis; soup kitchens; dispensaries and mobile clinics; children's and family counseling programs; orphanages and schools. Members, who take vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, also profess a fourth vow: to give "wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor."



She was praised and criticized for her opposition to abortion and criticized for poor conditions in her houses for the dying.

She was asked once if her critics caused her to be disheartened. "No, I do not become discouraged. You see, God has not called me to a ministry of success. He has called me to a ministry of mercy."

Mother Teresa possessed a clear understanding of God's priority. She knew that real success comes as a direct result of doing God's will. Those who enjoy true success are protected from two tragic outcomes.

First, they avoid temptation to waste their lives on things that don't really matter. Second, they avoid the discouragement that comes when we fail to experience the world's idea of success. One of the great truths about living for God is that when we seek His will, we seek something that is always completely attainable.

Associates of Life Care and Century Park understand the commitment of this remarkable woman. They live out their loyalty to God by serving His children. Ours, too, is a ministry of mercy.

Mother Teresa might have had cause to become discouraged if she had allowed the world to define success for her. But since she left that to God, success was always within her reach.

*Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building (1 Corinthians 3:8-9 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter