

Lesson from Mother Teresa

An encounter between the late United States senator from Oregon, Mark Hatfield, and Mother Teresa, who founded the Missionaries of Charity – a Roman Catholic congregation that in 2012 consisted of more than 4,500 sisters and active in 133 countries – proved instructive for him, and for us.

Hatfield, a Republican, served for 30 years as a United States senator and chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Hatfield told of touring Calcutta with Mother Teresa and visiting the so-called House of Dying, where sick children are cared for in their last days, and the dispensary, where the poor line up by the hundreds to receive medical attention.

Watching Mother Teresa minister to those people, feeding and nursing those left by others to die, Hatfield was overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the suffering she and her co-workers faced daily.



“How can you bear the load without being crushed by it?” he asked.

Mother Teresa replied, “My dear senator, I am not called to be successful, I am called to be faithful.”



Perhaps there are occasions in your work when you feel engulfed by the needs of those you serve and the seriousness of the responsibility you bear.

Keep in mind that God has called us to the mission in which we are engaged, and He has given us the tools to succeed. First Samuel 18:14 reads, “In everything he (King David) did he had great success, because the Lord was with him” (NIV).

When we are faced with overwhelming or seemingly impossible situations, it is our duty to remain faithful and to leave the definition of success to God.

How do you define success? Does it line up with the will of God?

Meditate on these questions as you go through your day.

You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in your presence (Acts 2:28 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter