CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

The story of Teresa of Calcutta

By Janaan Manternach
NC News Service

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu grew up on a small farm in Yugoslavia. She was strong, healthy and a hard worker. She loved her parents, and her brother and sister, and her home.

In school Agnes heard about India. She learned of the missionaries who worked there in the city of Calcutta. When she was 12, she wanted to become a missionary and go to India. She felt God called her to become a nun, a religious Sister.

For six years the desire grew. When Agnes was 18, she left home to become a Sister of Loreto. She knew this order had missions in India.

Agnes became Sister Teresa and was sent to a convent in India.

Sister Teresa loved being a nun. She loved being a teacher in the Loreto school in Calcutta.

The school and convent were large and beautiful. They were in a nice part of the city and had a lovely garden. Sister Teresa was happy and taught here for 20 years.

During those years Sister Teresa learned how poor many people in India were. One day as she was riding a train to another city, she felt God was calling her to do more for Calcutta's poor people.

After thinking about it for a while, she decided to leave the Sisters of Loreto. She wanted to live and work with the poorest people in the city. She wrote to the pope about this and, with his approval, left the Sisters of Loreto to lay plans for her new work.

Sister Teresa moved into the slums of Calcutta. She learned how to help sick people. She started her own school for poor children. At first there were just five children. But more and more poor children came to her school.

Some girls she had taught at her former school came to help her. They formed a new religious community called the Missionary Sisters of Charity. Sister Teresa came to be known as Mother Teresa.

She and her young Sisters knew that many poor people lived and died in the streets of the crowded city. One day Mother Teresa found a dying woman in the street. She picked her up and carried her to a hospital.

Mother Teresa decided to open a home for poor and dying street people. She and her Sisters went out and carried dying men and women to their home.

More and more young women joined Mother Teresa and her community. They wanted to help her care for the very poorest of the poor.

Mother Teresa now is known all over the world. She won the Nobel Peace Prize. Many people call her a living saint.

(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, scripture stories and original stories for children.)

A Puzzlement

Directions: Unscramble the words below. All the words are in this week's children's story. Another word is spelled out in the boxes with circles.

1. TUCLACTA ► ► ►
2. OPEP ► ► ► ► ► ►
3. RITHACY ► ► ► ► ►
4. OTEROL ► ► ► ► ► ►
5. HOCOLS ► ► ► ► ► ► ► ►
6. GNAES ► ► ► ► ► ► ► ►

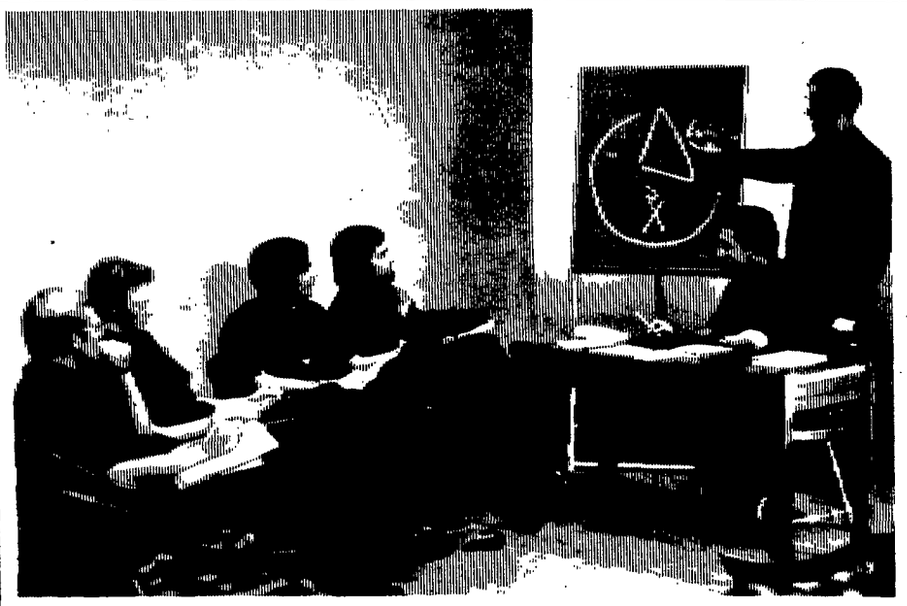
Answers: 1 CALCUTTA, 2 POPE, 3 CHARITY, 4 LORETO, 5 SCHOOL, 6 AGNES

HOW ABOUT YOU?

☐ Who is Mother Teresa and what does she do?
☐ Who helps to care for the poor and the sick in your own community?

Children's Reading Corner

What people choose to do often shapes their lives and influences others. Read the story titled "A Writer," by M.B. Goffstein, to get a feeling for how the vocation of writing can be creative, lonely and fulfilling. After reading the story, talk with someone about one thing that you really like to do, how you do it and what happens because you do it. To think about your vocation — your call — ponder your special talents and abilities. And ponder the special needs of people around you. (Harper and Row Publishers, 10 E. 53 St., New York, N.Y. 10022. 1984. $11.95.)



Frontier

There is a frontier ruggedness about young men studying for the priesthood in Alaska. They have to be tough. After ordination, planes, boats and snowmobiles will take them to remote missions in Eskimo villages, logging camps and outposts in the Aleutian Islands.

With funding from the Catholic Church Extension Society, they are now able to pursue the priesthood with intense missionary zeal. They are part of a team that brings God's Word to isolated people here in the United States. But that team can't do the job alone. It needs new members. It needs you.

Join us. Become a member of the Extension team. Although you won't be present in the home missions personally, your impact will be felt in this holy effort. Together we will bring Christ to those living in remote home mission areas.

Write for a free subscription to Extension magazine today and discover the difference you can make. Together, and with God's grace, we can achieve His missionary goals here in our own beloved country.

The Catholic Church EXTENSION Society
35 East Wacker Drive, Room 400F • Chicago, Illinois 60601