

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Dorothy Day's life with the poor

By Janaan Manternach
NC News Service

Dorothy Day was about 8 when her family moved from California to Chicago where she grew up.

Her father worked for a newspaper. So did her brother Donald. They were both good writers. Dorothy's mother cared for the family.

Already as a child Dorothy loved books and read for hours. She had good friends and enjoyed playing. But books had a special place in her home.

One day when Dorothy was about 14, Donald urged her to visit Chicago's west side. He said it was very different from the neighborhood where they lived.

A few days later Dorothy walked around the west side. The houses looked old and poor. The people who lived in them were poor. Dorothy was sad to see how much they suffered. She was just a teen-ager but she felt that God wanted her somehow to help poor working people.

After high school she went to the University of Illinois. She studied hard. She studied about

why people are poor.

The more she learned the less her faith in God seemed to matter. She no longer felt Jesus was important to her. She also became restless. She wanted to do something more than study.

She went to New York and became a newspaper reporter. She saw firsthand how people suffered because they could not get jobs.

She wanted to do more but did not know what to do. She began to pray again and became a Catholic. One evening while at prayer Dorothy begged God to show her how best to use her talents to help the poor.

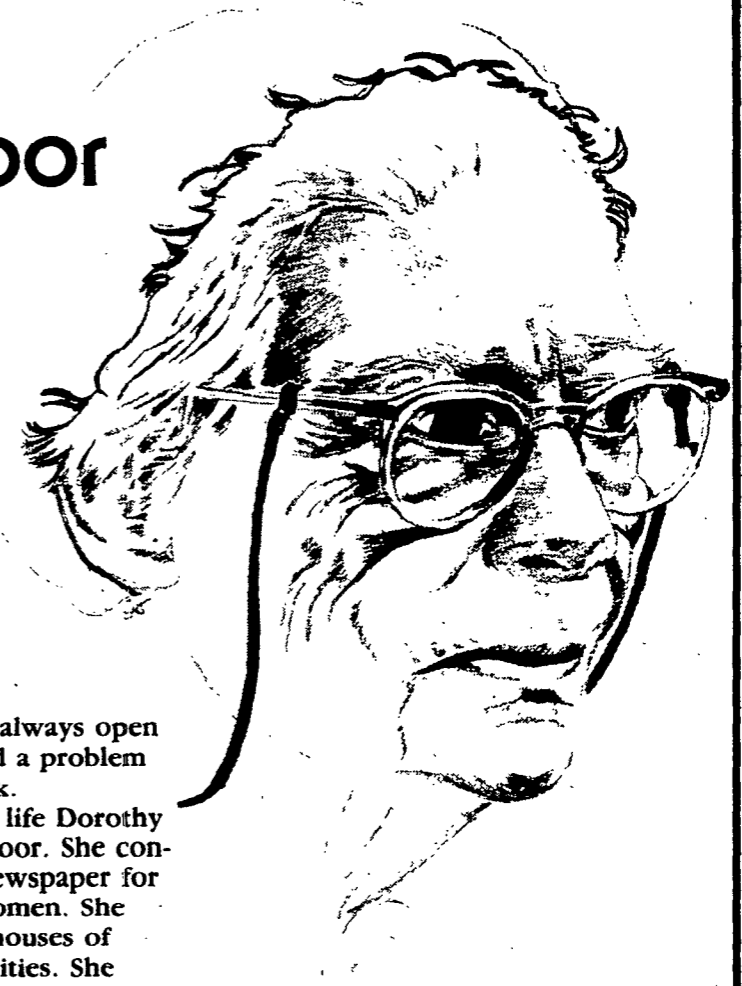
When she got back home to New York she found a man waiting to see her. His name was Peter Maurin. He and Dorothy talked and talked. Peter suggested that Dorothy start a newspaper for workers. She liked the idea. She called the newspaper, "The Catholic Worker." It cost a penny. It still does.

Dorothy and Peter then opened a "house of hospitality" for the poor. Poor people could come there for free food, clothes, a place to sleep. Dorothy lived right

there. Her door was always open to everyone who had a problem or just wanted to talk.

For the rest of her life Dorothy Day lived with the poor. She continued writing her newspaper for working men and women. She and Maurin opened houses of hospitality in other cities. She traveled all over the country to share her ideas about helping the poor.

She took part in many strikes and protests. She suffered much because of her ideas. No matter how busy she was, she prayed and read the Bible every day.



Many people believe Dorothy Day is a saint.

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

a game

Missing Vowels

a game

Fill in the vowels in the phrases below. All of the phrases are contained in this week's children's story.

1. w _ r k _ d f r _ n _ w s p _ p _ r
2. l _ v _ d b _ _ k s
3. h _ _ s _ s l _ k _ d _ l d _ n d p _ _ r
4. p _ _ r w _ r k _ n g p _ _ p l _
5. h _ w b _ s t t _ _ s _ h _ r t _ l _ n t s
6. "h _ _ s _ _ f h _ s p _ t _ l _ t y"
7. d _ _ r w _ s _ l w _ y s _ p _ n

Answers: 1. worked for a newspaper, 2. loved books, 3. houses looked old and poor, 4. poor working people, 5. how best to use her talents, 6. "house of hospitality," 7. door was always open.



Together

Sister Elenita Barry, MM, worked with Navajo children in western New Mexico for more than 10 years. Supported by a grant from the Catholic Extension Society, she taught Navajo children the saving Word of the gospels.

Sister Elenita is one of a small team of home missionaries who, together with the Extension Society, pursue the vital and urgent task of evangelization here in the United States. But the team is too small to do it alone. It needs new members. It needs you.

Join us and become a member of the Extension Society team. Although you won't be present in the home missions personally, your impact will be felt in this holy effort. Together we can bring the Word of Christ to those who don't have it.

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 goals here in our own beloved country.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Does it bother you when others don't listen carefully to what you are saying? Do you ever find it difficult to listen carefully to others? Why is listening important? Why is it sometimes difficult?

Children's Reading Corner

"Crow Boy" is a story by Taro Yashima. In it, Chibi, a small boy, is afraid of his teacher and cannot learn a thing. He is also afraid of the other children and has no friends. He is very lonely, but he finds ways to kill time and amuse himself. Things change when Chibi's class gets a new teacher. He is a friendly man with a kind smile. He is pleased and amazed with the things Chibi knows and does. He spends time talking and listening to Chibi and completely changes Chibi's life at school. This is an exquisite story revealing how important seeing and listening and caring are for another person's growth. (The Viking Press, Inc., 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Paperback. \$.95.)



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