

Mother Teresa is home after bout with malaria

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Mother Teresa arrived back at her Calcutta headquarters after a week in the hospital with a bout of malaria complicated by a heart condition.

The woman religious considered by many to be a living saint celebrated her 83rd birthday in a New Delhi hospital Aug. 26 and was discharged the following day. She was flown back to Calcutta aboard a special plane.

Members of the Missionaries of Charity, the order she founded, welcomed her at the airport and drove her back to the order's headquarters.

"It's wonderful to have her back. She's looking very well," said one sister.

The New Delhi hospital gave her a clean bill of health.

"She was feeling absolutely fine," a hospital official said after her departure.

Mother Teresa got out of bed Aug. 26 for the first time since Aug. 20 to take a walk in the coronary care unit of



AP/Wide World Photos
Mother Teresa greets well-wishers as she leaves a New Delhi hospital on her 83rd birthday Aug. 27. The Nobel laureate has returned to her Calcutta home after spending a week in bed with malaria.

the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi.

Nuns celebrated during a special Mass to mark her 83rd birthday Aug. 26. Sisters at the Calcutta headquarters said the Mass was also in celebration of her recovery.

In previous years, Masses had been celebrated Aug. 27, which everyone had thought was Mother Teresa's birthday.

"She never told us otherwise, but recently we learned that Aug. 27 was the day of her baptism and that she was born a day earlier," said one sister.

Mother Teresa, who won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, was in New Delhi Aug. 20 to accept another humanitarian award for her work among the destitute and dying when she fell ill with malaria.

She was rushed to the hospital, but her treatment was complicated by heart problems that have affected her for the past few years and necessitated a pacemaker implant in 1989.

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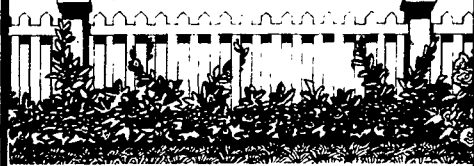
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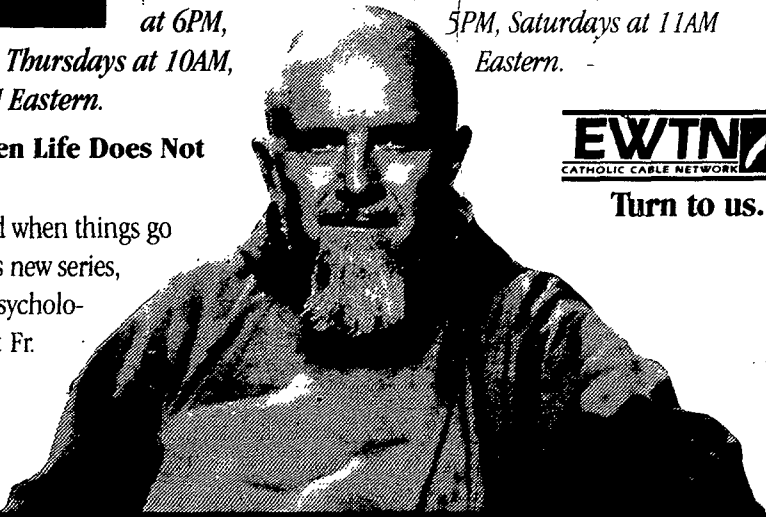
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