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# Catholic Courier

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## World mourns death of Mother Teresa, 87

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — As India prepared to hold a state funeral for the late Mother Teresa, India and world leaders joined in a global outpouring of praise for her love of the world's poor and outcast.

Mother Teresa, 87, died of cardiac arrest Sept. 5 at the Calcutta motherhouse of the Missionaries of Charity order she founded.

In a Sept. 6 telegram to Sister Nirmala Joshi, who succeeded Mother Teresa as superior general of the order, Pope John Paul II said, "I give fervent thanks to God, who gave this woman of unshakable faith as a gift to the church and to the world in order to remind us all of the supremacy of evangelical love, especially when it is expressed in humble service of the least of our brothers and sisters."

The Indian government announced that it would accord Mother Teresa a state funeral Sept. 13, with full military honors beginning with a 10 a.m. funeral Mass at the 10,000-seat Netaji Indore Stadium in Calcutta.

The government declared Sept. 13 a national day of mourning and a national holiday.

At the motherhouse in Calcutta, the news of Mother Teresa's death was posted on the blackboard on the chapel wall: "Our beloved Mother went home to Jesus, 5th September at 9:30 p.m."

As sisters prayed and sobbed inside the chapel the night of Sept. 5, word spread outside, and hundreds, then thousands, of people poured into the rain-soaked streets of Calcutta to pay homage to their icon of love and hope.

According to UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, Mother Teresa's remains were to be buried in an underground room at the Missionaries of Charity motherhouse. The room was being converted into a private chapel.

In the United States, upon learning of the death of Mother Teresa, Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said, "Her life was a lesson in love. ... Mother Teresa transcended cultures and politics."

"She saw Jesus in everyone — from the child in the womb to the sick and vulnerable, especially those afflicted with AIDS, to the aged and dying abandoned in the streets of Calcutta," Bishop Pilla said.

Archbishop Francis J. Spence of Kingston, Ontario, president of the Canadian bishops' conference, wrote in a letter to Sister Nirmala that Mother Teresa "became a living symbol of the love and compassion of Jesus Christ, not only for the faithful but for the whole world."

U.S. President Bill Clinton called her "one of the giants of our time" who "showed us the stunning power of simple humility."

In India, government leaders expressed their sorrow and said Mother Teresa would

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