

## Pope recalls Mother Teresa year after her death

By Lynne Weil  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Mother Teresa of Calcutta was remembered at the Vatican as an inspired leader and tireless advocate for the poor.

On Sept. 5, the anniversary of the charismatic nun's death, Pope John Paul II told thousands of Catholic lay workers gathered in St. Peter's Square that her example should inspire others.

"Let us not forget the great example that Mother Teresa left us and not limit ourselves to commemorating her with words," the pope said. "Let us have the courage always to put people and their fundamental rights first."

In Mother Teresa's name, Pope John Paul called on the leaders of all nations to speed disarmament programs and to dedicate resources instead to aiding the hungry and the ill.

The pope called Mother Teresa "a gift of God to the poorest of the poor" and "a singular gift for the church and for the world."

"This little woman, from a humble family, what marvelous work she was able to achieve with the strength of faith in God and love for her neighbor," he said.

"Her total dedication to God, confirmed every day in prayer, was translated into a total dedication to her neighbor," the pope said. "In the smile, in the gestures and in the words of Mother Teresa, Jesus walked again in the streets of the world as the Good Samaritan and continues to do so through the Missionaries of Charity, who form the great family that she founded."

About 200 Rome-based members of the order, which has its headquarters in Cal-

cutta, India, attended a Mass that morning in St. Peter's Basilica celebrated by Cardinal Pio Laghi, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education. The order's facility in the southeastern corner of the Vatican City State cares for the area's poor and homeless.

In his homily, Cardinal Laghi said "one must not be closed inside one's own self and follow one's own interests, but be open to others, to give and to be given to."

"And in this point the figure of Mother Teresa is before us to indicate what must be done and how it must be done," the cardinal said. "She wrote, 'today the poor are starved for bread and rice, and what is

more, for love; they are thirsting for water, but even more so for peace, truth and justice.'"

Vatican Radio and the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, offered recollections of what Mother Teresa said and did. Vatican Radio carried an interview with her successor and superior general of the order, Sister Nirmala Joshi, who said that everything Mother Teresa did, "she did for the glory of God and for the good of people."

L'Osservatore Romano ran a full page of commentaries about Mother Teresa, including an interview with Archbishop Henry d'Souza of Calcutta and a com-

mentary by Brother Roger Schütz, founder of the ecumenical Taizé Community and co-author of three books with Mother Teresa.

A televised tribute to Mother Teresa, the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was videotaped the evening of Sept. 5 in the hall where Pope John Paul gives his weekly general audience.

The show featured taped testimonials from U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, as well as tributes read by British film star Ben Kingsley, Indian television actor Kabir Bedi and Argentine model Valeria Mazza.

## Calcutta archbishop investigates 'miracle'

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Archbishop Henry d'Souza of Calcutta said the cure of a French girl living in the United States might not have occurred fast enough to be considered a valid miracle attributable to Mother Teresa's intercession.

The Missionaries of Charity received queries from hundreds of people after Archbishop d'Souza told a private television channel in India and a British Broadcasting Corp. radio program in late August that the case was possibly a miracle.

"That was an organic and not a psychosomatic cure," the archbishop also told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

However, after the archbishop consulted with experts on the matter, UCA News reported he spoke about "an overestimation" of the case, adding that the "miracle may not be valid, as rules require that a cure be immediate and not a gradual im-

provement with a time gap."

He said the case of the French girl "seemed to fit the conditions required for a miracle." She had broken her bones in a car accident, but claimed to have been healed after she touched a medallion Mother Teresa had given her.

Missionaries of Charity spokesperson Sunita Kumar said the U.S. doctors who documented the case with X-rays believe the recovery was miraculous, as the bones healed faster than they normally would have without medical intervention.

If the miracle is proved, it would be a boost to the cause for sainthood of the Albanian missionary who died, aged 87, on Sept. 5, 1997.

Archbishop d'Souza has already let it be known that he would like to beatify the founder of the Missionaries of Charity before the year 2000. However, according to the Vatican's canonization rules, the official investigation process may not begin

until five years after a candidate's death.

Once that process begins, most likely in the year 2002, Mother Teresa's life, sayings and writings will be examined for any action or statement contrary to church teaching and to prove that she led a life of heroic virtue.

A canonically approved miracle attributed to Mother Teresa's intercession would allow her to be beatified. Proof of a second miracle that occurs after beatification must be made for her canonization. Final approval for sainthood comes from the pope, after consultation with the Vatican Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

The superior of the Missionaries of Charity in Dublin, Ireland, Sister Benicita, said she was "not surprised" at the news of the alleged miracle.

"We have heard stories of several miracles, and Mother is definitely in heaven continuing our work and supporting us all the time," she said.

## CALENDAR

### All Diocesan

#### Meetings

■ **WED, SEP. 16 — SCC Basics:** Small Christian Communities; four sessions: Sept. 16, St. Mary's, Watkins Glen; Sept. 23, St. Joseph's; Rush; Sept. 30, St. Agnes, Avon; Oct. 7, Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; 7:30-9 p.m.; call 716/328-3210 or 800/388-7177; ext. 328 or e-mail weinzler@dor.org.

#### Religious Activities

■ **WED, SEP. 16 — Charismatic Mass:** St. John Fisher College, Murphy Hall Chapel, 3690 East Ave., Rochester; 7:30 p.m.

#### Workshops

■ **SAT, SEP. 12 — Celebrate 98:** "What do I most want to hand on to later generations?"; sponsored by Synod Goals 2 and 3: Consistent Life Ethic and Dignity of Women; St. Patrick Parish school hall, 81 W. Bayard St., Seneca Falls; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; 716/328-3228 or 800/388-7177; ext. 304 or 347.

### Chemung Schuyler

#### Religious Activities

■ **MON, SEP. 14 — Reflections:** on the Scriptures

and teachings of Catholic faith; St. Anthony Parish, Washington and College Ave., Elmira; 7 p.m.; Monday evenings.

#### Social Activities

■ **MON, SEP. 14 — Reservation deadline:** for Sept. 16 senior citizen luncheon/card party; Our Lady of Lourdes parish center, 1100 W. Church St., Elmira; 12 noon; \$4.50 includes lunch, prizes; call Kathleen 607/732-2718 or Josie 607/732-8993 or 607/734-6840.

### Monroe County

#### Meetings

■ **THU, SEP. 10 — Registration deadline:** for Sept. 17 "Women, Wellness and Wonder"; Mercy Prayer-Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 7-9 p.m.; \$10; 716/473-6893.

■ **FRI, SEP. 11 — Registration deadline:** for Sept. 18 session "A Time for Mindfulness"; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Avenue, Rochester; 7:15-8:30 p.m.; \$5; 716/473-6893.

■ **FRI, SEP. 11 — Registration deadline:** for Sept. 16 luncheon; Catholic Women's Club of Rochester; Don Alhart, speaker; Rochester Yacht Club, 5555 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester; 11:30 a.m.; \$18; call 716/461-9173, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Mon., Wed., Fri.

■ **TUE, SEP. 15 —**

**Discussion:** "Giving the Love You Want"; sponsored by Odyssey, the diocesan outreach to Catholic 20's/30's; 7:30-9 p.m.; call 716/325-4456.

■ **THU, SEP. 17 — Lecture:** "Moral Illiteracy and the Case for Character Education"; William Kilpatrick, speaker; E. Garrett Cleary Lecture on Ethics and Values sponsored by Downtown Community Forum; Crowne Plaza, 70 State St., Rochester; 12:10-1 p.m.; lunch, lecture \$15; call 716/232-7140.

#### Religious Activities

■ **MON, SEP. 14 — Charismatic Mass:** Christ the King Church, 445 Kings Highway S., Rochester; 8 p.m.

■ **TUE, SEP. 15 — Divine Mercy Chaplet:** Mercy Motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Rd., Rochester; 7 p.m., rosary, reconciliation; 7:30 p.m. Mass.

■ **TUE, SEP. 15 — Information:** on Catholic Church; Church of the Resurrection, 63 Mason Rd., Fairport; 7:30-9 p.m.; call 716/425-4125 or 716/223-5500.

■ **WED, SEP. 16 — In the Upper Room:** "The Ministry of the Holy Spirit before Pentecost"; second of nine meetings; St. Joseph's Church, 43 Gebhardt Rd., Penfield; 7:30-9 p.m.; call Anne 716/377-9504.

#### Workshops

■ **SAT, SEP. 12 — Registration deadline:** for Sept. 19 program "Renewing the Vision — A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry";

Guardian Angels Church, 2061 E. Henrietta Rd., Henrietta; 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; \$10; also Sept. 24 at St. Mary, Watkins Glen, and Oct. 1 at St. Thomas More, Rochester; send payment, name, date attending to Michael Theisen, Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624 or fax 716/328-3149.

■ **TUE, SEP. 15 — Registration deadline:** for Sept. 26 "Enneagram for Heart Centered ... #2, 3, 4"; Mercy Prayer Center, 65 Highland Ave., Rochester; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; \$30; 716/473-6893.

### Seneca Cayuga

#### Fundraisers

■ **TUE, SEP. 15 — Pasta dinner:** St. Mary's Church, Lyceum Hall, 15 Clark St., Auburn; 5-7 p.m.; \$5 adults, \$3 children under 12; take-outs available.

### Steuben County

#### Meetings

■ **TUE, SEP. 15 — Registration deadline:** for Sept. 26 Mass; past regents' club of the NYS Catholic Daughters; hosted by Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Joseph #139; Bishop Matthew Clark,

celebrant; St. Vincent de Paul Church, 222 Dodge Ave., Corning; 12 noon; followed by buffet at the Radisson; \$13; reservations to: Dottie Young, 5105 Harrison Rd., Beaver Dams, NY 14812-9619.

### Tompkins Tioga

#### Social Activities

■ **SUN, SEP. 13 — Pig Roast:** celebrating Immaculate Conception's centennial; Lake Watch Inn, Rt. 34N, 1636 E. Shore Dr., Ithaca; 1 p.m.; \$18; 607/273-5379 or 607/273-6121.

### Yates Ontario Wayne

#### Meetings

■ **THU, SEP. 10 — Support group:** "A Kaleidoscope of Grief"; presenter, Debbie Sigrist; RN; St. Mary's Church Hall, 95 N. Main St., Canandaigua; 7:30 p.m.; call 716/394-6836 or 716/394-7265.

#### Religious Activities

■ **WED, SEP. 16 — Queen of Peace Night:** St. Dominic's Church, 6 Canandaigua St., Shortsville; 7 p.m. rosary, confessions, benediction; 8 p.m. Mass; healing service follows.