

Catholic

UPDATE

LIGUORI
PUBLICATIONS
ONE LIGUORI DRIVE
LIGUORI, MO
63057-9999

800-325-9521
WWW.LIGUORI.ORG

C1607A

JULY 2016

MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA SAINTLY MODEL OF PERSISTENCE IN FAITHFULNESS, PRAYER, AND LOVE

BY ANNE WILSON

*M*other Teresa. The mere mention of her name evokes thoughts of praise, admiration, and, most likely, unattainable sanctity. Could any of us ever dream to reach her level of holiness? Honored internationally for her work with the poor, she has much to teach the rest of us who are struggling to just pay attention to this week's homily.

As the universal Church celebrates her canonization, we take a look back at her life and the inspirational lessons she left behind for all people, no matter their circumstances: lessons in the primacy of prayer, the necessity of a simple and pure love, and a firm persistence in faith.

Family Life

Mother Teresa was born Agnes—Gonxha in her own language—Bojaxhiu on August 26, 1910 to a Catholic Albanian family in present-day Macedonia. Here with her older brother and sister, Agnes first learned about prayer, love, and persistence in faith from her father Nikola and mother Drane.

Family life held a sacred place in her upbringing due to the tumultuous times, both politically and spiritually, in which they were living. Among Albanians in Agnes' day, Catholics were few in number. As a minority, they clung to their faith as a bedrock of calm in a politically charged cultural environment. Many Albanians, Agnes' father included, clamored for independence from the seemingly endless revolving door of political entities claiming power. Agnes' mother

We hope you enjoy these sample pages. For ordering information, visit Liguori.org.

CNS PHOTO / NANCY WIECHEC

BACKGROUND IMAGE: © JAT306 / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM