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Mercy MOMENTS

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door to a world
where the
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God is
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Saint of Mercy



“If you judge people, you have no time to love them. There are no great things, only small things with great love. Happy are those. Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”

St (Mother) Teresa of Kolkata

Pope Francis' canonisation of Mother Teresa on September 4 celebrated not just the life of a compassionate and dedicated servant of the poor but also the power of mercy and love in our world. Mother Teresa's ministry to the poorest of the poor – homeless, abandoned, sick and dying – was based on her belief in the critical importance of loving everyone we meet. She once said, “... the biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for and deserted by everyone. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity ...”

St Teresa of Kolkata challenges us all to look for ways to truly love others; to look at those we encounter each day as expressions of God's love and mercy and respond from the heart. Radical love, that practiced by St Teresa and her followers – sisters, fathers and brothers of the Missionaries of Charity and related organisations across the world – is transformational, bringing human warmth, care and assistance to those in need and lighting them from within – in that deep place where acceptance and human connection touch the soul.

Richard Rohr (2016) sums up the spirituality which drove St Teresa of Kolkata, “... as a Divine creation, you have an intrinsic meaning, an irreplaceable worth. Once you can fully accept that inherent dignity in yourself, your happiness is henceforth an inside job, and you will naturally hand it on to others too, because the Source is now infinite and you are finally connected to your Source.”

The following quotes from St Teresa reinforce that even the smallest gesture of love toward another can have a huge impact.

“Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.”

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.”

“Let no-one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.”

REFLECTION

> In what ways can you practice radical love in your life and place?