Mother Teresa

"Let us touch the dying, the poor, the lonely and the unwanted according to the graces we have received, and let us not be ashamed or slow to do the humble work."

Mother Teresa (1910-1997) is known across the globe as one of the greatest humanitarians of the 20th century. In 1928, a young Albanian girl named Agnes Bojaxhu became a nun and took the name of Sister Mary Teresa. A few years later, she ended up at a convent in Calcutta, India, teaching at a school for girls from poor families. Then, in 1946, she felt a calling that would transform the world. With a minimum of medical training, she soon moved into the slums to minister to "the unwanted, the unloved, the uncared for." She founded the Missionaries of Charity with former teaching friends and students, and they soon were caring for lepers, orphans, and the poorest of the poor in Calcutta. Word spread of Mother Teresa's work, and donations began to pour in from around the world. The activities of the Missionaries of Charity spread across India and beyond. Mother Teresa became a global symbol of hope and charity, and she was recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for "bringing help to suffering humanity." She remained active in her charitable work until her passing in 1997. At that time, there were thousands of people involved in the Missionaries of Charity as part of 610 foundations in 123 countries. In 2016, she was canonized by the Catholic church as St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Mother Teresa lived her life with an incredible commitment to serving those in the greatest need, and we honor her work raising up the most vulnerable all over the world.