

Achievement Course: Life and Dignity of the Human Person
Recommended Ages: 10-18 years of age
Approximate Completion Time Frame: 6-12 months



Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Pray for us!

Saint Teresa of Calcutta is the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Calcutta where she dedicated her life to the poorest of the poor and lived from 1910-1997. At age 18, Gonxha (Agnes) Bojaxhiu entered the Loreto Sisters of Dublin, and a year later found herself in the Loreto Novitiate in Darjeeling, India where she chose the name Teresa. In 1946, Sister Teresa heard what she explained as a “call within a call”, and after receiving permission to leave the Loreto Sisters, she established a new religious community to “follow Christ into the slums to serve Him among the poorest of the poor”. While the work was exhausting, Sister Teresa quickly gained support from volunteers, many her old students, and became the core of the Missionaries of Charity. Saint Teresa’s witness came through her service to the abandoned children and orphans, the destitute of all ages, and through to the dying at the end of life. Saint Teresa of Calcutta shared a friendship with Saint Pope John Paul the Great. They supported and comforted each other through various trials, while trying to make God’s love present. In 1997, Saint Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her charitable acts serving these communities in need.

“In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love.”
~ Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

Objective: To mobilize families and friends from you area to support the culture of life through prayer and community outreach.

Through this mobilization and service to these populations, the following should serve as examples but not limitations:

- Group (never alone) peaceful (showing others the love of Christ and not graphic signage) prayer vigils at a local abortion clinic over a period of time
- Diaper drive for a local pregnancy center or community outreach center
- Gently used toys or clothing drive for a local pregnancy center or community outreach center
- Coat drive for a local parish or community outreach center
- Food drive for a local parish or community outreach center
- Gift bags of useful household items and a special note for residents of a local long term care center

I. Where are you called to support the culture of life? Select from one of the below to mobilize your local friends and families:

- A. Conception to early years
- B. Support of the impoverished – all ages
- C. Support of the differently abled – all ages
- D. The aging to end of life
- E. Other populations in need as approved by your troop's Captain

II. Preparation

- A. Partner and secure appropriate permissions from a local parish or community organization to volunteer and document 5 hours of service aiding the population you have selected
- B. Write a plan of how you plan to service the population you have selected to include but not limited to:
 - a. Specific details for the population you are serving
 - b. Specific details and a goal(s) you will work to achieve in serving this population
 - c. Specific details of support you need to serve this population (i.e. volunteers, donations, etc.)
 - d. Specific details on the schedule of events and timeline to carry out the service to this population
- C. Secure approval from your local Captain on your plan

III. Execute your plan

- a. Make sure to document with pictures and details throughout the plan

IV. What goals did you achieve and what did you learn?

- A. Prepare a short presentation including pictures for your local troop on the goals achieved and what you learned in support of life and the dignity of the human person

Resources:

<https://40daysforlife.com/> 40 Days for Life

<https://www.liveaction.org/get-involved/> Live Action

Simple online searches for local pregnancy help centers, outreach centers, and long term care centers will provide easy access to the population in need for your area.