

Third Place (2), Alyson Wilking-St. Therese

When thinking of beauty, we often call to mind the beaches of Hawaii, a sunset over an ocean, or a newly blossomed flower. But, to Mother Teresa beauty was seen in the deformed or diseased children of Shantinagar. She saw beauty in sacrifice. To me, Mother Teresa is our modern day Good Samaritan. She teaches us compassion. She shows us that our moral obligation is to love, respect, and show mercy to everyone.

“not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” No words are more true than that of Mother Teresa. We do not have to go to India to save the dying in the streets of Calcutta, but can do things in our lives to show that all life is sacred and worthy of love, respect, and mercy. One of the simplest things we can do is pray. The power of prayer is shown each year during the month of January. Thousands of people march the streets of Washington D.C. to the Capitol building in hopes of ending abortions. As a Diocese, we all pray the rosary at the exact same time to show our support that all life is sacred. While addressing a Right to Life group, Mother Teresa said that every child is sacred. “The worst threat to our world peace was to destroy children’s safety in the family by abortion.” As the Good Samaritan helped someone in need and alone, we need to reach out to women who are in need and alone. Our prayers may seem to be a small thing, but our praying with great love is a powerful force.

Mother Teresa was also like the Good Samaritan because she felt her moral obligation was to help the poorest of the poor; the people who others did not want to help or were considered throw away. “The Church’s love for the poor ... is part of her constant tradition.” This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor. Love for the poor is even one of the motives for the duty of working so as to “be able to give to those in need.” Like Mother Teresa, some ways that we can help those who do

not want to help others are by volunteering at a local soup kitchen, making care packages for the homeless, or sending letters of encouragement to people in prison. We can do small things that have a huge impact on those in need.

Mother Teresa was an image of god. While Mother Teresa was traveling on a train in India, she began to see pictures, but she didn't see them with her eyes. Using her mind and her heart, she saw the poor people who lived in Calcutta. Mother Teresa helped all kinds of people that others walked by, like the Levite and priest. She did not care about looks; she just wanted to make a difference. "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."

(Colossians 3:23) This bible verse speaks volumes as Mother Teresa not only did her work to save the unwanted, but did it for the work of God.

In this Year of Mercy, we can choose to live like Mother Teresa. Like Mother Teresa the Good Samaritan, we can live as a child of God and help others in every possible way. It is the little things that lead to bigger things. By living the Works of Mercy, we too can produce the kind of beauty that Mother Teresa gave to the World.