

Who was this person?

- MT was a nun who went out to work for the poorest of the poor
- Born as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in what is now the Republic of Macedonia in 1910
- Entered the Loreto order, taking final vows in 1937, and took up the name MT
- After 20 years in the convent got the inspiration to leave and devote her life to the poor
- Started the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India to care for the poor
- Became internationally known in the 1970s
- Received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work to overcome poverty, which constitutes a threat to positive peace
- Died in 1997 of heart failure at age 87
- At the start of her funeral her body was borne through the streets of Calcutta where the poor she touched could pay their last respects
- She is now buried underneath the first house of the MoC
- After death Pope John Paul II beatified her and gave her the title Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

What did she do to promote peace in the world? (main focus)

- Promoted peace through her selfless servitude to the poorest of the poor in India and beyond
- Formed the Missionaries of Charity to meet these divine requests to serve the poor, gaining Vatican approval in 1950
- The MoC opened a home for the dying, called Nirmal Hriday ("Place of the Immaculate Heart") in 1952
- The MoC opened their first children's home (Shishu Bhavan), which cared for orphans in 1955
- Ran schools for children of poor families in their slum communities
- Provided all sorts of other services to the poor, including mobile health clinics and meals
- "In India's slums, huge numbers of people were infected with leprosy, a disease that can lead to major disfiguration. At the time, lepers (people infected with leprosy) were ostracized, often abandoned by their families. Because of the widespread fear of lepers, Mother Teresa struggled to find a way to help these neglected people. Mother Teresa eventually created a Leprosy Fund and a Leprosy Day to help educate the public about the disease and established a number of mobile leper clinics (the first opened in September 1957) to provide lepers with medicine and bandages near their homes. By the mid-1960s, Mother Teresa had established a leper colony called Shanti Nagar ("The Place of Peace") where lepers could live and work."
- Helped build up the MoC into an order with 610 missions in 123 countries, including hospices and homes for people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and

tuberculosis, soup kitchens, children's and family counseling programs, orphanages, and schools

What role did sex and gender have?

- Sex and gender played no direct role in her work when class and wealth were more what you focus on when caring for the poor
- That said, being a nun by definition has sex and gender as important aspects
- The Missionaries of Charity, starting as just sisters, were a congregation of nuns
- MT was celibate all her life
- We wouldn't consider her a feminist

Why did I research this person?

- I knew enough about MT since quite a while ago to want to take this opportunity to learn more about her, so this project was well more than academic
- With a grandmother and aunt who met MT (in one case before she was internationally known) I knew I could get some unique perspectives on this remarkable person for my project and it made it feel a little more like a personal project than academic project
- MT is someone that somewhat falls between the cracks of history when it comes to remarkable people striving for peace, and so I wanted to shine some light on this remarkable person