

**Mother Theresa  
spoke to former Lasallian Students  
in August 1976 in Malta (2/2)**

We have a place in Australia, as you know, many of the Aborigines live in very bad conditions and when we went round and found this place, this man, an old man in a most terrible condition and so I went in there and tried to talk to him and then I said to him: «kindly allow me to clean your place and clean your bed and so on», and he said «I'm alright». And I said to him: «You will be more alright if I clean your place».

Anyway, at the end he allowed me to do it and when I was in his room, I call it a room but it was really not a room. He had in his room a lamp, a very beautiful lamp but covered with dirt and dust and I said to him «Do you not light the lamp»? And he said «For whom? Nobody comes. I never see anybody. Nobody comes to me. I don't need to light the lamp». And I asked him «If the Sisters come to you, will you light the lamp for them»? And he said «YES». So the Sisters started going to him in the evening and he used to light the lamp, to clean the lamp and he used to light the lamp. After he lived more than 2 years, he sent me word through the Sisters and he said «Tell my friend, the light she lit in my life is still burning». That was such a small thing but it was there in that darkness of that loneliness, a light was lit and that light kept on burning. This is what you, who belong to Christ, you who have been given Jesus, you who know what it is to be loved by Christ, you who know that He is asking you to love others as He has loved you. Give... Give to your neighbour the love that you have received. Give until it hurts, for true love must hurt. That is why we must give until it hurts, with our time, with our hands with our minds, whatever we have, In that sharing.

Sometime ago in Calcutta, we had difficulty in getting sugar and one day a little child, four years old, a Hindu child, came up with his parents and he brought me a bottle of sugar, a small bottle of sugar and he said «For three days I will not eat sugar. Give this to your children». That little one loved until it hurt.

And another time a gentleman came to our house and he told me: «There is a Hindu family with about 8 children who had not eaten for a long time». So I took

some rice quickly for that evening and went to their family and I could see real hunger on the small faces of these children and yet the mother had the courage to divide the rice into two and she went out. When she came back, I asked her «Where did you go? What did you do?» And she said: «They are hungry also». «Who were they»? A muslim family next door with as many children. She knew that they were hungry. What struck me most was that she knew and because she knew she gave until it hurt. This is something so beautiful. This is living love. She gave until it hurt. I did not bring more rice that night because I wanted them to enjoy the joy of giving, of sharing. You should have seen the faces of those little ones. They just understood what their mother did. Their faces were brightened up with smiles. When I came in they looked hungry, they looked so miserable. But the act of their mother taught them what true love was. This is the greatest of our poor.

One night in Calcutta we picked up some patients from the street and one of them was in a very terrible condition and I told the Sisters: «I take care of her». And I took care of her and all that my love could have done, I did for her. When I put her in bed, she took hold of my hand. There was a very beautiful smile. I have never seen a smile like that on a human face. There was a beautiful smile on her face and she said one word only 'Thank you' and she died. For a second I reflected on looking at her and I said: «If I were her what would I have done»? And my sincere answer was: I would have tried to draw little attention to myself. I would have said «I'm cold» or «I'm hungry» or «I'm dying or something». But this wonderful woman, she gave me more than I gave her. She gave me her understanding love. These are our people. Do you know them? They may be in your own home. The lonely people are everywhere. Do we know them?

In our own place, and St. John has said something very clear. «How can you say that you love God whom you do not see and you do not love your neighbour whom you see». And he calls that person who says so: «I love God but I don't love my neighbour», he says: «You are a liar».

So today, when you have made so many sacrifices to come together, to share together, to exchange your desires and your prayers together, let us pray. We need Prayer, we need Sacrifice, we need that total surrender to God that He may use us during these times. People are hungry for God. People are hungry for bread. Are You there? Do you know that?... Do you know that? Do you see? Do you have eyes to see? Very often we see but we do not look. And in your places you have throughout the world. You have received so much

from the Brothers - the gift of love. You have seen love in action in their lives. Take it with you, you have received much - give until it hurts. Find your poor in your own home, in your own house, in the street where you live. There are lonely people in hospitals, in mental places. There are so many shut-ins. In New York, our Sisters are working in the shut-ins and it is so painful to see them. They are known with the number of the room. They are somebody's child. Somebody has loved them before. They have loved somebody in their life and today they are known as a number only. This is a great poverty and still greater poverty - the abortion. There is where you come in the picture. You who have received so much love, show that you love by protecting the sacredness of life. For that little unborn child is created in the image of God, in the life of God, in that unborn child. And the nation and the people who destroy that life because they are afraid they will not be able to feed one more child; they will not be able to educate one more child the child must die that they may live. This is where your love must radiate. The sacredness of life is the greatest gift of God to us. And so, you who have been receiving so much from God, give to others. Love others as He has loved you, with a tender love. And pray for us, for our Sisters and Brothers have dedicated their lives, they have given their lives to love Christ with undivided love and Chastity, through freedom of poverty. For us, poverty is necessary. To be able to understand the poor, we must know what is poverty. That's why we need that freedom of poverty in total surrender to Obedience. If we belong to Christ, then Obedience is a way of being at His disposal, to use us as He wants. And the fourth vow that we take is to give whole hearted, free service to the Poorest of the Poor, to Christ in the distressing disguise of the poor.

And there is where we come together today and I was very happy to come to you because you are the Chosen Ones to go back into your countries, into your homes, into your cities and light the light of Christ and prove to the people that they may know you, that you are, that you belong to Christ by the love you have for one another.

The first Christians died for Jesus and they were

recognized because they loved one another and today the world has never needed more love than today. People are starving for love. They have not time even to look at each other. They have no time to smile at each other. Everybody is in such a great rush. They are hungry for love and you, who have received so much, pray... pray for Grace. Pray that you may understand how Jesus has loved you so that you may love others, and pray for us that we may not spoil God's work. That we allow Jesus to use us as it pleases Him and where it pleases Him. We thank God, we have many vocations and very wonderful vocations, and these young people who say «I want a life of poverty, of prayer, and sacrifice that will lead me to the service of the poor». And I am very grateful to you, especially to the people from Malta that for the last two years the young people have been going to Palermo and sharing the work with the Sisters. There are other places and God has blessed this country so much. Share it with others and by going to these poor areas, there are other places like Yemen. For nearly 800 years that country has been closed to the Christian touch. After 800 years our Sisters went there and for the first time they see that God really loves them and they call our sisters "Carriers of God's love". Why? Because, they are taking care; they are serving; they are loving. They are putting the love of Christ into a living action and they say: "It is the first time that we see really Christian love alive... alive!" And for them Allah is everything, for every word they say Allah.

And they find that they are those sisters who are able to do what they are doing, to take care of the lepers, of the dying, of the crippled, of the unwanted, that they are really the People of God, Carriers of his Love on earth and that their presence in that dark place has lit a new light in the life of these people. And so you pray for us that we may not spoil God's work. And that His work remains His. And you and I, together let us not use bombs and guns to overcome the world.

Let us use love and compassion and we will be able to overcome the whole world and bring Christ's good news to the world the news that God loves the world. God bless you. •