

## **Mother Teresa: a pencil in God's hands**

The true name of Mother Teresa was Agnese Gonxha of Bojaxhim. She was born in 1910 in Skopje (Macedonia) to an Albanese family. At the age of 28 she entered the Sisters of Our Lady of Loreto in a convent in Ireland, as a novice. The sisters of Loreto, a teaching order, sent her to Bengal in 1929. Here she began teaching at Calcutta's St. Mary's High School, but in 1946 she left the order because she received the "call" to live and work for "the poorest among the poor". She wore a sari and in 1950 she founded the order of Missionaries of Charity devoting all her life to the provision of health care for India's street children, orphans, sick and homeless. She cared, above all, for lepers and the terminally ill, as well as AIDS victims, drug addicts, prostitutes and women who suffered violence. Because she didn't want anyone to die in squalor and loneliness, she opened more than 130 "houses" all over the world. In 1979 she received the Nobel Peace Prize. Although her heart, strained by so much hard work and sacrifices, ceased to beat on September 5, 1997, in Calcutta, this little big woman will always be a great example of goodness for all. Mother Teresa was very humble and she affirmed she was only a pencil in God's hands because "holiness is not a luxury, it is the simple duty of everyone".

### **ACTIVITIES**

#### **1. Answer the following questions:**

1. What was Mother Teresa's full name?
2. Was she of Indian origin?
3. Where did she go as a novice?
4. Where did she teach then?
5. Why did she leave the Sisters of Loreto's order?
6. Did she found a new order in 1950?
7. Why did she devote her life to the terminally ill?
8. When did she die?
9. How did she use to define herself?
10. Is holiness only for a few people, according to Mother Teresa?

**2. Groupwork: with the help of your art teacher, try to make a comic-strip based on Mother Teresa's life or draw a big poster about her for your classroom.**