

Mother Teresa of Kolkata

Saint among the Poor



Written and Illustrated by Didier Chardez
Foreword and Epilogue by Monsignor Leo Maasburg

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FOREWORD

The Apostles spent three years on the road with Jesus the Master. I accompanied Mother Teresa on her many trips for seven years, partly because it was important to her to always have a priest with her. She didn't want to live a day without receiving Jesus at Holy Mass. She also wanted to make her confession every week, if possible.

She never spoke about it, but I was, in fact, her student during this time—I spent a long time in the school of a saint! Looking back, I am more and more aware of how much those countless experiences shaped my own spiritual life. As a priest, Mother Teresa drew me closer to Christ. I thank God for that.

The episodes in Mother Teresa's life included in this graphic novel have been illustrated especially for young people. This is how Mother Teresa would have wanted it. Not so much that you would come to know Mother Teresa herself better, but that through her you might better recognize God's work.

Everything Mother Teresa did, she did for her great love: Jesus Christ. She did everything hand-in-hand with him and through him. All the stories in this graphic novel are based on real events. And much of the dialogue is as I remember it. I am pleased that this book will be published for her canonization, and I hope that Saint Mother Teresa's life will touch many young people.

And for that, I ask God's blessing,

p. Leo

Monsignor Leo Maasburg worked with us on this graphic novel with great care and for a long time. Many stories in this book are his personal memories of the time he spent with Mother Teresa.

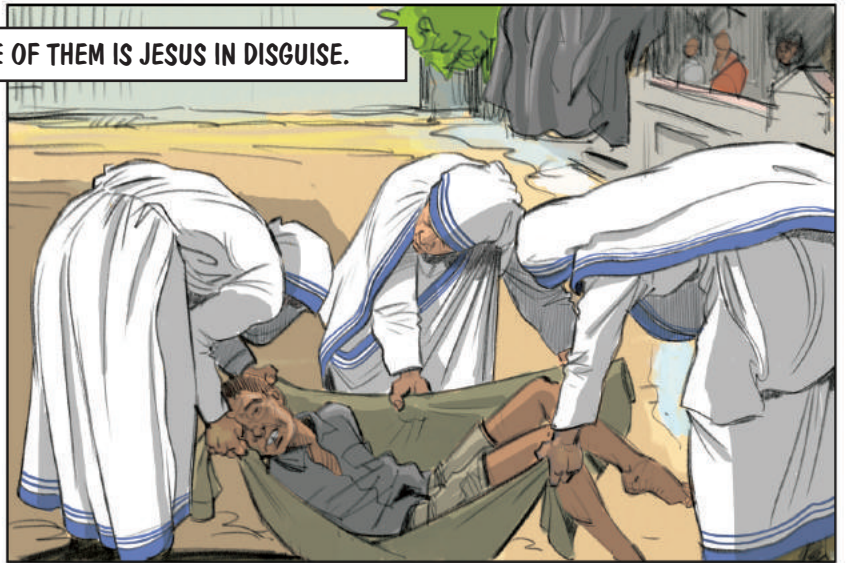


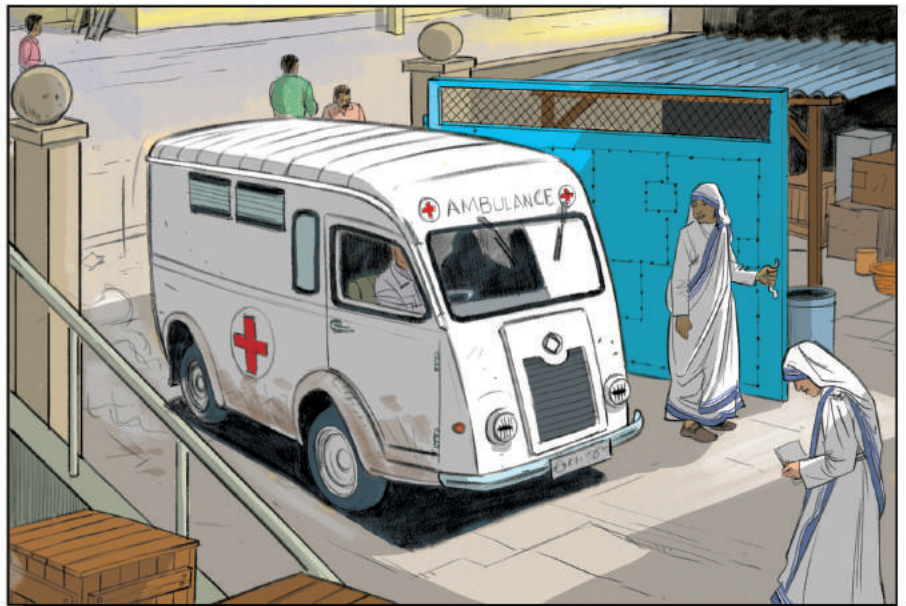
PEOPLE DYING ON THE STREET



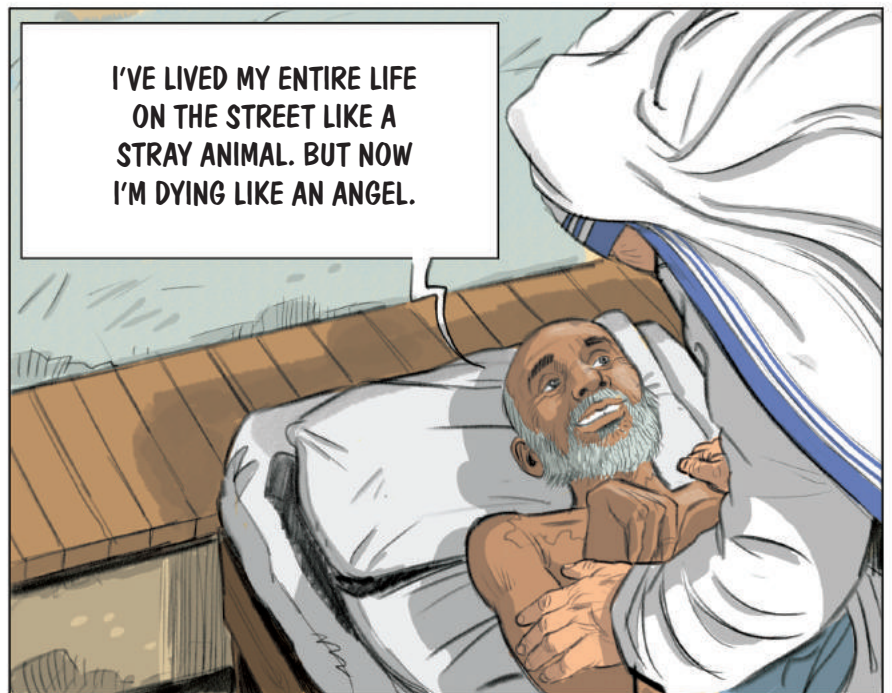
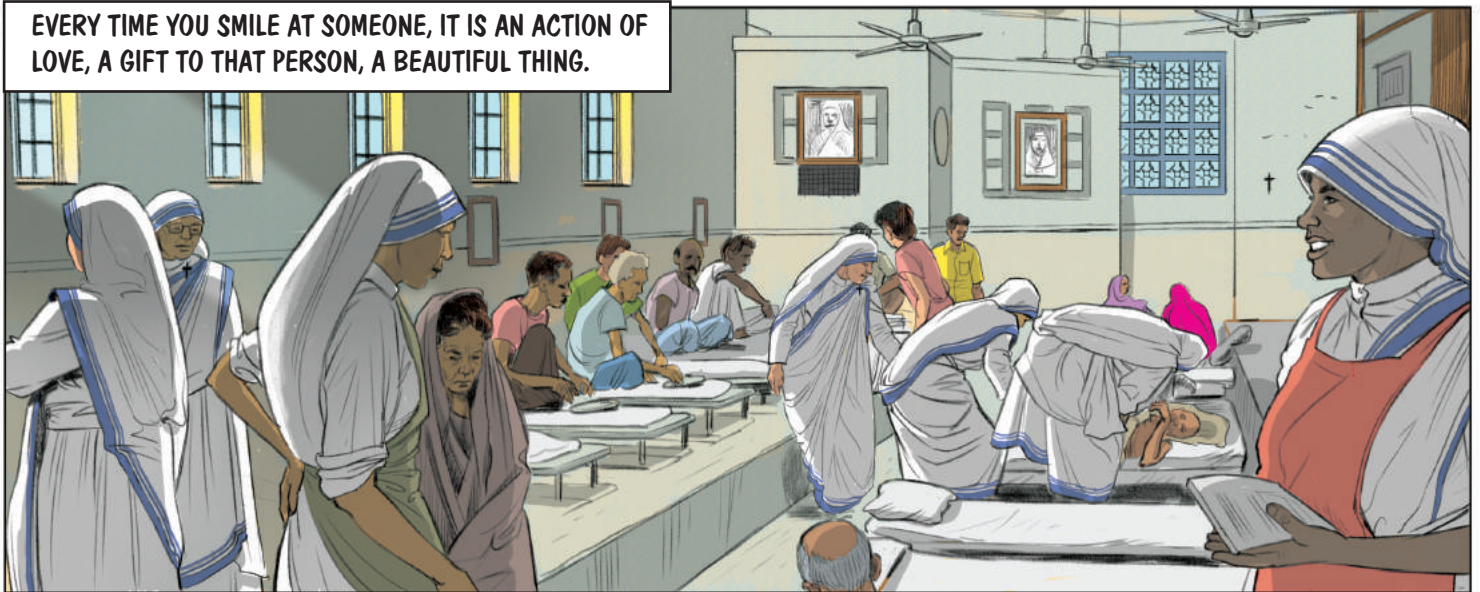
KOLKATA, INDIA

EACH ONE OF THEM IS JESUS IN DISGUISE.



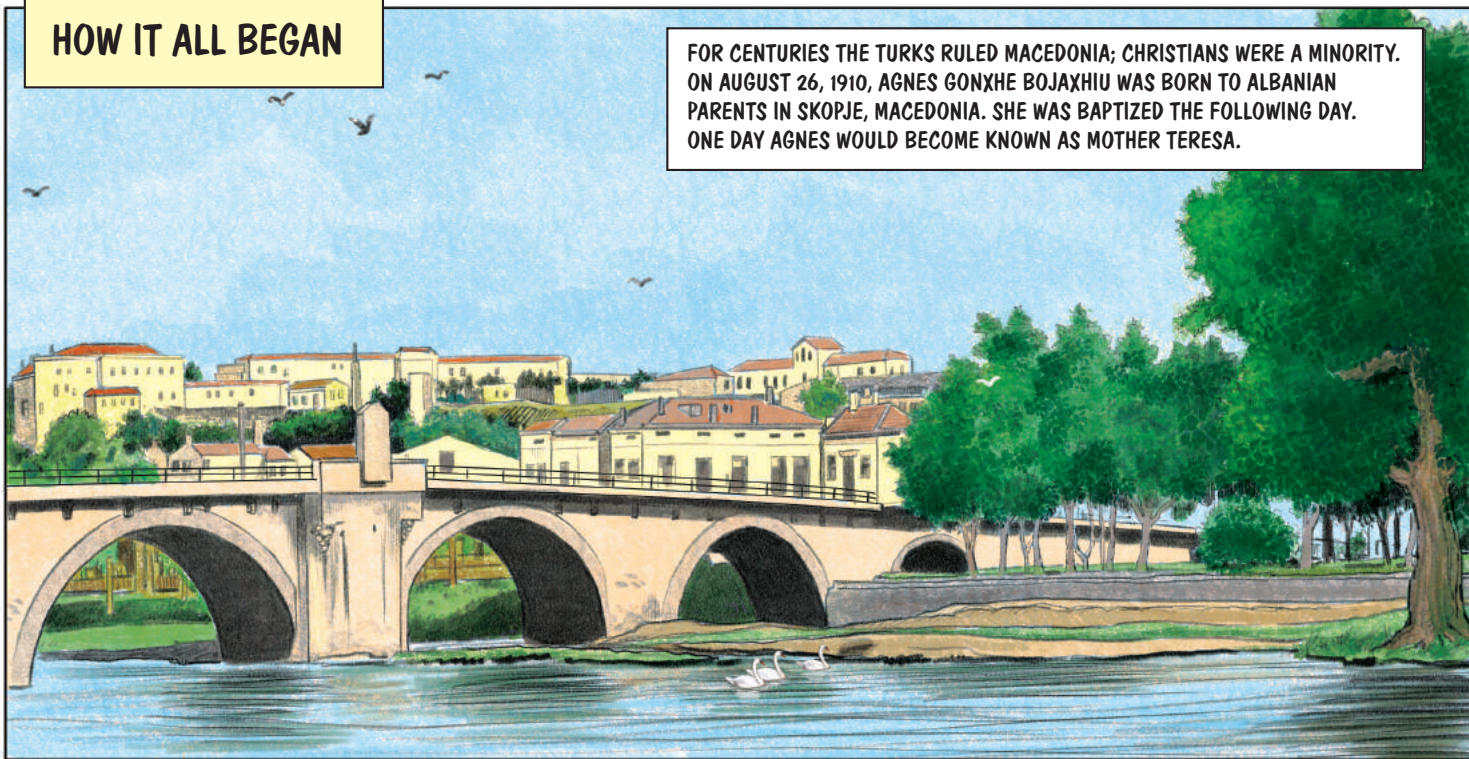


EVERY TIME YOU SMILE AT SOMEONE, IT IS AN ACTION OF LOVE, A GIFT TO THAT PERSON, A BEAUTIFUL THING.



HOW IT ALL BEGAN

FOR CENTURIES THE TURKS RULED MACEDONIA; CHRISTIANS WERE A MINORITY. ON AUGUST 26, 1910, AGNES GONXHE BOJAXHIU WAS BORN TO ALBANIAN PARENTS IN SKOPJE, MACEDONIA. SHE WAS BAPTIZED THE FOLLOWING DAY. ONE DAY AGNES WOULD BECOME KNOWN AS MOTHER TERESA.



HER FATHER, NICHOLAS, WAS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN. HER MOTHER, DRANA, CAME FROM A RICH FAMILY.



AGNES WAS THE YOUNGEST OF THREE CHILDREN. SHE HAD A BROTHER, LAZAR, AND A SISTER, AGA.



NICHOLAS WAS A BUILDING CONTRACTOR AND WAS THE ONLY CATHOLIC SERVING ON THE CITY COUNCIL.



TO PAPA NICHOLAS, HIS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION WAS VERY IMPORTANT. NOT EVERYONE IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE SHARED THIS VALUE AT THAT TIME.



WHEN YOU DO GOOD, IT'S AS IF YOU THREW A STONE IN THE WATER—IT RIPPLES AND FORMS WIDER AND WIDER RINGS.



AT HOME, MAMA DRANA TAUGHT THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

MAMA DRANA ALSO SHOWED THEM HOW TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD. EACH WEEK SHE VISITED THE SICK OF THE CITY AND TOOK THE CHILDREN ALONG WITH HER.



SHE OFTEN INVITED THE POOR TO EAT WITH THEM.



CHILDREN, INSIST THAT EVERY BIT OF THIS FOOD IS SHARED AMONG THE POOR.



IN 1919, JUST BEFORE AGNES' NINTH BIRTHDAY, PAPA NICHOLAS DIED UNEXPECTEDLY. AFTER THAT, MAMA DRANA WORKED AT HOME AS A SEAMSTRESS TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY.

LONGING FOR GOD



ONE SUNDAY, A MISSIONARY PRIEST PREACHED AT THEIR CHURCH. HE TOLD THE PEOPLE ABOUT HIS WORK IN INDIA. AGNES FELT A BURNING DESIRE TO SERVE GOD.



AGNES HAD MANY TALENTS. SHE ENJOYED ACTING AND PLAYING THE MANDOLIN . . .



. . . SHE ALSO READ A LOT AND FOUND JOY IN THE QUIET MOMENTS SHE TOOK TO THINK AND PRAY.



BY THE TIME SHE WAS TWELVE, AGNES KNEW THAT SHE WANTED TO GIVE HER LIFE TO JESUS. BUT HOW?



THE INFLUENCE OF THE JESUIT PRIEST, FATHER FRANJO JAMBREKOVIC, WAS VERY IMPORTANT AT THIS TIME IN AGNES' LIFE.



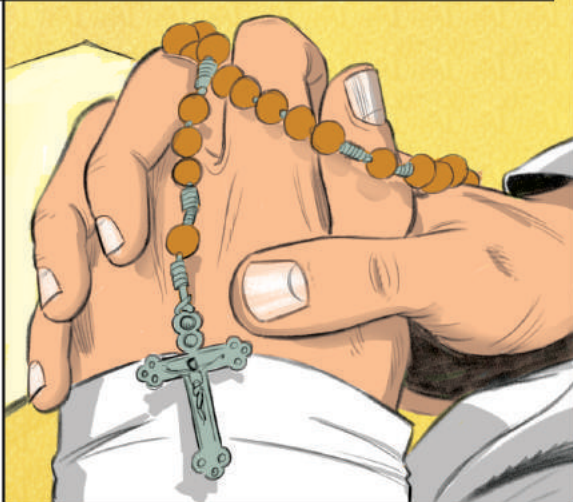
AGNES LISTENED CLOSELY TO FATHER FRANJO'S PREACHINGS AND SPOKE OFTEN WITH HIM ABOUT JESUS CHRIST, THE CHURCH, THE SAINTS, AND THE MISSIONS.

FATHER, HOW DO PEOPLE KNOW GOD'S PLAN FOR THEIR LIVES?

FROM THE JOY THEY FEEL, MY CHILD, FROM THE JOY!



AFTER A PILGRIMAGE, AGNES FELT A CLEAR DESIRE TO CONSECRATE HER LIFE TO GOD.



SO, AGNES, YOU WANT TO ENTER THE COMMUNITY OF THE SISTERS OF LORETO AND BE PART OF THEIR TEACHING MISSION?

BUT WHY, AGNES?



LAZAR, WHEN GOD CALLS, WE SHOULDN'T RESIST THE INVITATION.



ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1928, EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD AGNES LEFT HER FAMILY AND TRAVELED TO LIVE WITH THE SISTERS OF LORETO IN IRELAND. SHE WORE A TAG WITH HER NAME AND DESTINATION WRITTEN ON IT.

