

Put Out Into the Deep

Call Her Blessed Mother Teresa



Bishop DiMarzio

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This past Sunday morning, the Diocese of Brooklyn commemorated the beatification of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta with a Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. James. The diocese is blessed with two convents of the Missionaries of Charity founded by Blessed Mother Teresa. The first is a contemplative convent at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Bushwick and the second is an active convent at Our Lady of Victory parish in Bedford-Stuyvesant, which runs a home for unwed mothers. On her visits to our diocese, she saw the need here for the presence of her Sisters and was able to establish a community of prayer and an action community. These two aspects clearly capture the genius of Mother Teresa's renewal of religious life as she founded a new order in the Church, which in her lifetime has flourished with over 4,500 professed Sisters.

This past Oct. 19, we celebrated World Mission Sunday. On this day, our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, was able to declare Mother Teresa Blessed, a woman to whom he gave the title "an icon of the Good Samaritan." How true are the Holy Father's words that Mother Teresa has become an image of what the Good Samaritan was like and would be like in our own

day, not only for Catholics, but also for the whole world. Mother Teresa went everywhere to serve Christ and the poorest of the poor. Nothing could stand in her way. No political power, no threat of violence or war, nothing could stop the power of love which she harnessed in founding her missionary order.

Mother Teresa gave the world an insight into the connection between love and charity. Sometimes she was even criticized for her preference for direct service in helping the poor without an overt concern for changing systems that make or keep people poor. Her charisma, however, was to serve the poor with love, to see the connection between love and charity which eventually does change the world and its unjust systems.

Many of her sayings were collected in a recent book entitled *The Simple Path*. One said, "Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same - with charity you give love, so don't just give money. But reach out your hand instead." It was with these simple admonitions that Mother Teresa conquered the hearts of the world, whether it was winning the Nobel Peace Prize or being honored by the United States Congress, at which time she did not hesitate to call President Clinton and the legislators' attention to the grave evil of abortion in our country. Yes, she was

a woman of courage and vision, but now is recognized most of all for her sanctity.

In centuries gone by, the process of canonization was much less complicated than at the present time. It was by popular acclaim that persons were declared to be saints. They were known for their sanctity, and their intercession produced miracles after their death. They came to be known by the common people and by Church officials as saints or holy people. And so it has been in Blessed Mother Teresa's case. The world judges her to be a holy person. Some day, I am sure, she will bear the title of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. We thank her for leaving the legacy of her Sisters in the Diocese of Brooklyn. And because she is declared Blessed, we are able to seek her intercession as we publicly venerate her as one of God's holy ones.

The Holy Father, in ending his sermon at the beatification, said, "Let us praise the Lord for this diminutive woman in love with God, a humble Gospel messenger and a tireless benefactor of humanity. In her we honor one of the most important figures of our time. Let us welcome her message and follow her example."

Mother Teresa was one who put out into the deep following the Lord's command. Let us not hesitate to do the same.

Bishop Bars Priest from Active Ministry

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio has issued a canonical precept to Father John F. Johnston, directing him not to exercise public priestly ministry. He was arraigned in three civil jurisdictions in October on an array of criminal charges and is now free on bail.

The priest was advised of the bishop's directive after the completion of arraignment proceedings against him in Kings, Queens and Nassau counties. He will only be permitted to offer Mass privately.

Father Johnston, ordained for the Brooklyn Diocese in 1964, had not served here in more than 30 years, having been released from a diocesan assignment to parish work at his request in order to teach at the high school level.

Over that time, he taught at several secondary schools in the metropolitan area, the longest for 23 years until last

June at The Oratory School in Summit, N.J., conducted by the Christian Brothers.

He was arrested Oct. 7 at his apartment in Jackson Heights for making harassing phone calls. As the week progressed, he faced additional charges that included possession of money allegedly taken from a Long Island parish.

The first arraignment was in Brooklyn Criminal Court Oct. 9 on eight counts of second-degree aggravated harassment and one count of second-degree harassment for allegedly making offensive phone calls to Bishop Loughlin High School in Brooklyn, also conducted by the Christian Brothers. Bail was set at \$1,000.

The next day he was arraigned in Queens Supreme Court on fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon and sec-

ond-degree criminal possession of stolen property. The court set bail at \$1,500.

On Oct. 16 he was arraigned in Nassau District Court in Hempstead, charged with one count of second-degree grand larceny, a felony, for stealing approximately \$86,000 from St. Martin of Tours Church in Bethpage. He had said Mass there on weekends for more than 20 years. Bail was set at \$10,000.

During the arraignment proceedings, Father Johnston was remanded to the jail at Rikers Island. He is being represented by Manhattan attorney Joseph Stello.

In announcing the canonical precept Oct. 20, Bishop DiMarzio said he would examine Father Johnston's future in the priestly ministry after the justice system has processed the civil aspects of his case.



Bishop DiMarzio's Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 2, 10:30 a.m. - All Souls Mass, St. John's Cemetery, Middle Village.

Monday, Nov. 3, 12:10 p.m. - Mass for deceased bishops, priests and deacons, St. James Cathedral Basilica, Brooklyn.

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 4 p.m. - Confirmation, St. Edmund, Sheepshead Bay.

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m. - Confirmation, Holy Cross, Maspeth.

Friday, Nov. 7, 9:15 a.m. - Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) board meeting, Washington.

11:30 a.m. - USCCB Committee on Migration meeting, Washington.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 9 a.m. - Stewardship Day, Immaculate Conception Center, Douglaston.



Cathedral Club Memorial Mass

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio was the main celebrant of the annual Memorial Mass for the deceased members of the Cathedral Club of Brooklyn. The Mass was celebrated at Visitation Monastery, Bay Ridge. Shown with the Bishop are members of the club's governing board, including Craig Eaton, to the bishop's left, the club's newly installed president.