



Valentine...

Revisiting Our Passion

What comes to mind when you hear the name Mother Teresa? What was there about this tiny nun that gave her a worldwide influence? - Her appearance? - A sensuous voice? - I doubt it-but Mother Teresa had something more important than either physical beauty or dazzling talent; **she had a passion to help the poor.** This strong-minded woman was so committed to her cause that she would move earth and sky to achieve a positive result giving her worldwide influence.

Her work began with a dream in which she was convinced that God was telling her to build an orphanage. When she informed the superior at her convent that God had told her to build an orphanage, the Mother Superior asked Teresa how much money she had. When the reply was "three pennies," the superior asked her what she expected to build with three pennies. It is said that Teresa replied, "*With three pennies and God, I can build anything!*"

Mother Teresa went to India, where she did build an orphanage, a hospice for the dying, and medical clinics in the slums of Calcutta. Later she opened a center for AIDS victims in New York. When Mother Teresa was presented the Nobel Prize in 1979, she told the press that **the most insidious disease that can prey on a human being is the feeling of not being wanted.** She gave her life to making certain that **no one who came within her sphere of influence ever felt rejected.**

One day Mother Teresa went into a grocery store in India and put eight hundred dollars worth of groceries into some shopping carts. It was food that was needed for the starving people that she was caring for. But when she got up to the cashier, she said that she was not going to move out of line until the people behind her came up with the money to pay for the food. Her request was granted.

Certainly, Mother Teresa was a **person of influence par excellence.** People who make the biggest difference in this world are people who are driven by a passion. **You only have to say their name-and everybody knows.**

Might this **Valentine** be the time to revisit our Passion? -By the way, did I get your name?

Bishop Cecil Reid