



I LOVE MOTHER THERESA

By Victor Martell, President of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in Miami,
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Recently we can read in the written press and hear in the spoken press many quotes relating when there were periods of aridity in Mother Theresa of Calcutta's faith life. I have never liked judging anyone, and I am not going to do it in this case as to the reasons for these articles and their perhaps hidden motives.

As a member of the saint Vincent de Paul Society for more than 20 years, I can perfectly understand this attitude, because many times, during our daily visits we have suffered the same tribulations. Perhaps for those who profess their faith, but do not deal on daily basis with great hunger and need, may never have to pass thru these tribulations. For these reasons I can understand, if it is true, about the tribulations and of our human weaknesses.

How could we not feel like a sword is piercing our heart when we visit a home – for we visit our clients at their homes – and in their beds we see sick persons, or the lack or resources of a father who has been fired because he is an illegal immigrant living in this country, but has no food for his children, nor does he know who can help him; or another who needs medicines to cure his leukemia and the treatment cost over \$900.00 per month and he does not have the money to buy medical insurance. And we know that our conferences do not have the money to cover these families' expenses and help them move forward!

How could we not feel like a sword is piercing our heart when we knock on the door of those who have adequate resources and they do not open their hearts and we receive a NO for an answer; and to maybe quiet their internal distress talk about their lack of rights, about their constant begging being derived from their lack of drive, or that they want the money for drugs or liquor and even put in doubt the veracity and integrity our Vincentian brothers who are begging for the benefit of the needy.

Since I first knew of Mother Theresa's work I have respected and admired her. When I had the opportunity, many years ago, to visit her refuges in India, I knew at that instant that I was in the presence of a living saint. Today, after hearing these widely published "revelations": I love her with all my heart and I put her as an example to follow each day for the rest of my life, because she is a deserving person, that even though she may have suffered tribulations and doubts, like all human beings do, she maintained her long ministry for 50 years! We are truly in the presence of a Saint who carried consolation and salvation to thousands of children she rescued from the streets of Calcutta. In front of these facts, I can only pray, with great devotion, and not being worthy in front of her presence, since I do not even reach her sandals:

Mother Theresa; forgive those who take malicious advantage of this information to stain your name, for they do not know what they are doing.

Mother Theresa, I ask with all my concern that you intercede in front of JESUS so that when any Vincentian feels weakness, you help us to overcome them and to continue this work directed towards the abandoned, the work that is most pleasing to the God we worship.

Mother Theresa, do not let us give up, just like you never did; maintain us firm in the faith so that we may continue of work with our neighbors.

Mother Theresa, if you see us weaken, help us overcome this defect and give us strength to continue the fight, give us words to convince all that this is the way to reach salvation: offering our hand to all who approach us asking for help, without regard to their social standing, race or politics and above all without judging them!

Thank you Mother Theresa for showing us the true path to follow Jesus' footprints, as you followed them all your life; and if someday we stray, maybe due to lack of faith, help us, because we prefer to die than to leave the path we have learned to walk from you.