

### The Positive Impact of the Catholic Church

#### *Blessings to All:*

**The Catholic Church is the LARGEST charitable organization in the world.**

**With all the bad news about the problems within the Catholic church, let me share with you the best side of our Church.**

We should be PROUD (in a holy way of course!) of our Church and of her many people doing good all over the world. **We are the Church...**you and me. For the parent, teacher, nurse, auto mechanic, policeman, fireman, etc., who live their lives as examples of Christ love...**"We are the Church... and what we do makes a difference."** There is no organization that, for so long, has done so much good for the world other than the **Catholic Church.** This is just one sign that Christ continues to live within the Church, for 'by your love . . . the world will know you are My disciples'. (John 13:35)



#### **Mother Teresa, A Humble Disciple.**

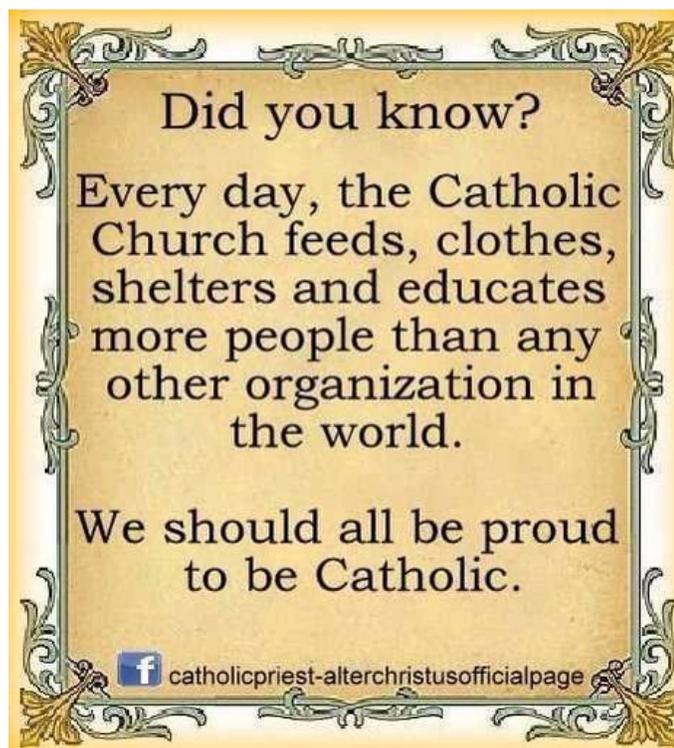
Mother Teresa, known in the Roman Catholic Church as Saint Teresa of Calcutta, was an Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun and missionary. She was born in Skopje, then part of the Kosovo Vilayet of the Ottoman Empire. After living in Macedonia for eighteen years she moved to Ireland and then to India, where

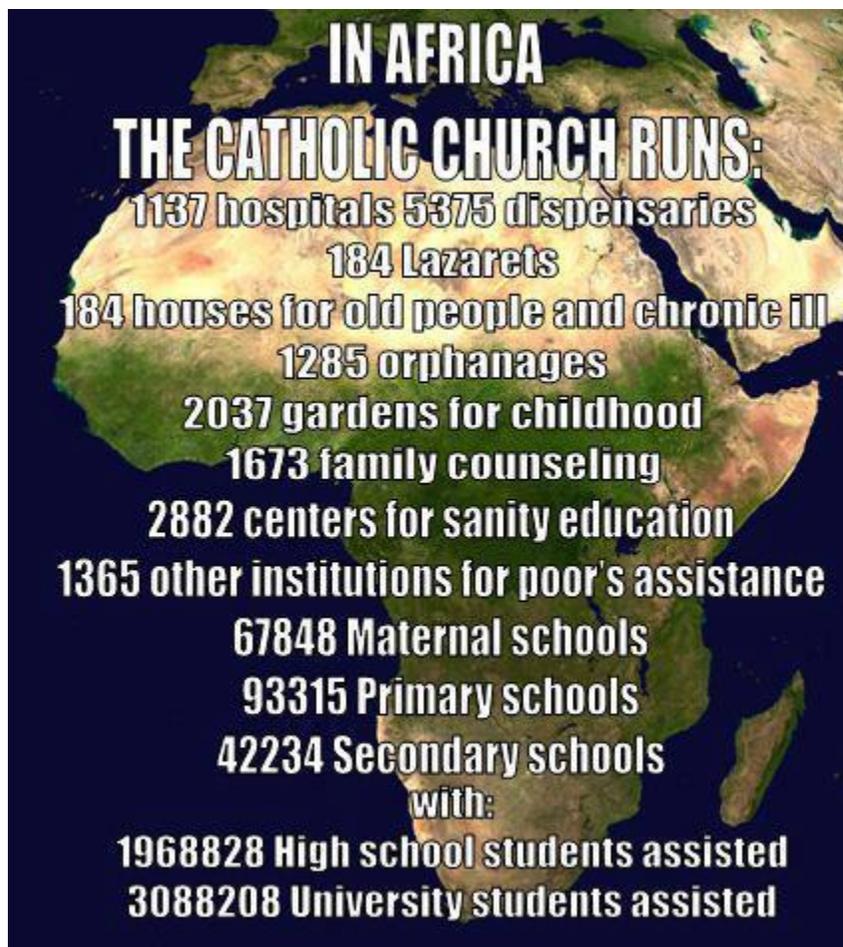
she lived for most of her life. She was simple in word and deed, but in all her action there was love. She was the **Church** to the people in India.

She said...“The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God.” – Mother Teresa, [A Simple Path: Mother Teresa](#)

Mother Teresa is an example of simple love extended to all. We are called to do the same in whatever vocation we have. **Be the Church of Love towards a world living in darkness. Your kindness and Christian examples, move many more people to Christ than all the leaders and teachers in the world. Be they religious or otherwise.**

Our Church continues to produce saints to show us what we need to be. Continue working to be an inspiration to your families and friends. To be examples, we need prayer in our lives each day. **Start the day with prayer and end the day with prayer. God will take care of the rest of your day.**





## A few of the services provided by

# The *Catholic* Church



www.facebook.com/DesignsbyBirgit

- Provided food services to 7,146,490 people in the United States.
- 7,142 elementary schools and 1,374 high schools with over 2.6 million students enrolled (Catholic as well as non-Catholic).
- 230 Catholic colleges and universities—720,000 students.
- 629 Catholic hospitals or 12.6% of community hospitals in the US.
- 88,519,295 or 1 in 6 patients in the US are assisted annually.
- Catholic health care systems and facilities are present in all 50 states, providing acute care, skilled nursing and other services including hospice, home health, assisted living and senior housing.

<http://www.usccb.org/about/media-relations/statistics/>

If you select all of the social work of the Catholic organizations in the USA, the amount of funding they provide is astounding! Adding up just Catholic Charities, Food for the Poor, Catholic Relief Services, St. Jude's, and America's Second Harvest alone total \$5.5 billion, which is greater than the #1 on the list for Charities for America.

Keep going down the <sup>(1)</sup> list and you find Father Flanagan's homes, Catholic Medical Mission Board, Covenant House, and more. Add the thousands of other charities, from Missionaries to the Poor, Amigos for Christ, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, to religious orders (like Missionaries of Charity) and thousands upon thousands of individual parishes across the globe who often do their work in anonymity, and you will see some of the charitable works of the Catholic Church. Catholic charities account for the vast majority of charity work around the world. In

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/top-charities/list/#tab:rank>

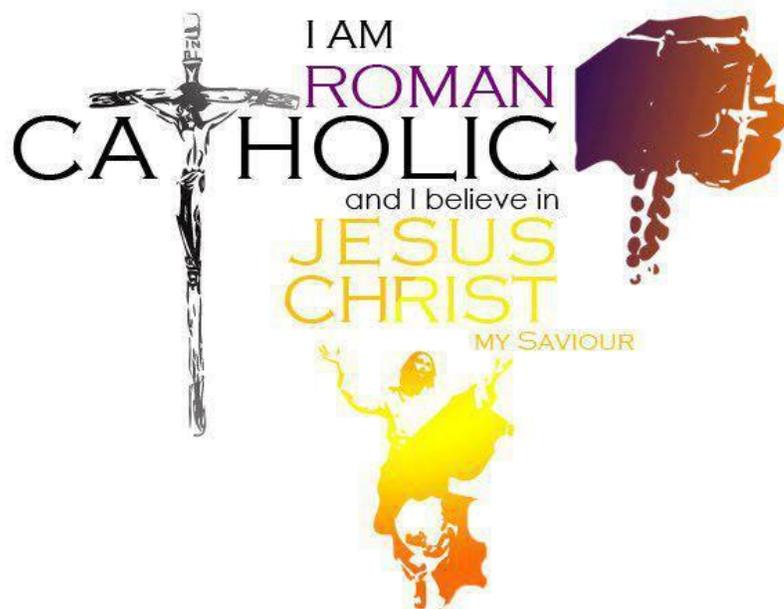
USA alone, it is estimated at between 17 percent to 34 percent of all nonprofit social-service charity organizations are done through the Catholic Church.



<sup>2</sup>Across the centuries the Catholic Church has been the means of reducing more languages to writing than have all other factors combined. It has created more schools, more theories of education, and more systems than has any other one force. More than any other power in history it has impelled men to fight suffering, whether that suffering has come from disease, war or natural disasters. It has built thousands of hospitals, inspired

---

the emergence of the nursing and medical professions, and furthered movement for public health and the relief and prevention of famine. The list might go on indefinitely. It includes many another humanitarian projects and movements, ideals in government, the reform of prisons, great art and architecture, and outstanding literature.



**The Roman Catholic Church is the largest non-government provider of health care services in the world.**<sup>3</sup> It has around 18,000 clinics, 16,000 homes for the elderly and those with special needs, and 5,500 hospitals, with 65 percent of them located in developing countries.<sup>2</sup> In 2010, the Church's Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Health Care Workers said that the Church manages 26% of the **world's health** care facilities.<sup>[3]</sup> The Church's involvement in health care has ancient origins.

---

<sup>3</sup> Agnew, John (12 February 2010). "Deus Vult: The Geopolitics of Catholic Church". *Geopolitics*. **15** (1): 39–61. [doi:10.1080/14650040903420388](https://doi.org/10.1080/14650040903420388).

<sup>2</sup> Jump up to:<sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> [Robert Calderisi](#); *Earthly Mission - The Catholic Church and World Development*; TJ International Ltd; 2013; p.40



Jesus Christ, whom the Catholic Church holds as its founder, instructed his followers to heal the sick. The early Christians were noted for tending the sick and infirm, and Christian emphasis on practical charity gave rise to the development of systematic nursing and hospitals. The influential Benedictine rule holds that "the care of the sick is to be placed above and before every other duty, as if indeed Christ were being directly served by waiting on them".

During the Middle Ages, monasteries and convents were the key medical centers of Europe and the Church developed an early version of a welfare state. Cathedral schools evolved into an integrated network of medieval universities and Catholic scientists (many of them clergymen) made a number of important discoveries which aided the development of modern science and medicine.

In Matthew 25:35-40 Jesus said "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me. Then the upright will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you? When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you? And the King will answer," In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."



**Star of Hope Houston, TX -Feeding the Homeless**

<https://www.sohmission.org/>



## Share your joy with those in need at Star of Hope!

**Celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event? As you prepare to celebrate, consider sharing the joy of your day with Houston's hungry and homeless by asking family and friends to make a donation to Star of Hope in honor of your special day.**

**Together, we can end homelessness ...  
one life, one family at a time.**

**6897 Ardmore St, Houston, TX 77054, 713-748-0700**

**St. Paul Ministry, Cypress, TX**

***Reflections* Newsletter is published each month by Catholic Family Newsletter, free of charge. If you want to be on the mailing list, please send your request to [r44pick@aol.com](mailto:r44pick@aol.com)**

**Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.**

**[www.catholicfamilynewsletter.com](http://www.catholicfamilynewsletter.com)**