



Mother Teresa: Donated in honor of the Gregor-Reese family, our window depicts a small, frail, yet strong woman that many of us remember. Born Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Yugoslavia on August 27, 1910, she lived a comfortable life until her father died suddenly, possibly the victim of poisoning by his political enemies. When she was eighteen, Gonxha decided to join the Loreto Sisters of Dublin, who were educators and missionaries. In 1929 she was sent to the sisters' novitiate in Darjeeling, India where she made her first vows and took the name of Teresa. She worked as a teacher in Calcutta for the next fifteen years, until she recognized the call to follow Christ by working with "the poorest of the poor." Released from her order and with permission to work independently, Mother Teresa began by teaching the children of the slums. Eventually her work teaching and aiding the poor attracted followers, and she formed a new religious community, the Missionaries of Charity, now active in many countries. Mother Teresa's work among the poor was recognized in a number of awards, including the Pope John XXIII Peace Prize (1971), the Nehru Prize (1972), and the Balzan Prize (1979). When she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, Mother Teresa asked that the money be given to the poor in India. When she died on September 5, 1997 she was mourned and eulogized throughout the world, by rich and poor alike.