



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Mother Teresa to be Honored on U.S. Postage Stamp

- What:** The U.S. Postal Service will pay tribute to Mother Teresa, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her humanitarian work. Noted for her compassion toward the poor and suffering, Mother Teresa, a diminutive Roman Catholic nun and honorary U.S. citizen, served the sick and destitute of India and the world for nearly 50 years.
- Who:** **James H. Bilbray**, member, Board of Governors, U.S. Postal Service
John E. Potter, postmaster general and chief executive officer, U.S. Postal Service
Archbishop Pietro Sambì, apostolic nuncio of the United States
The Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, auxiliary bishop, Washington, D.C.
Reverend Monsignor Walter R. Rossi, rector, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Sister Leticia, provincial superior, Missionaries of Charity
Mitzi Betman, vice president, Corporate Communications, U.S. Postal Service
Thomas Blackshear II, artist, Mother Teresa stamp
- When:** Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010, 3:15 p.m.
- Where:** Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Great Upper Church

400 Michigan Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C. 20017-1566

Background: Mother Teresa, an ethnic Albanian, was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu on Aug. 26, 1910, in Skopje in what is now the Republic of Macedonia. Drawn to the religious life as a young girl, she left her home at the age of 18 to serve as a Roman Catholic missionary in India. “By then I realized my vocation was towards the poor,” she later said. “From then on, I have never had the least doubt of my decision.” Having adopted the name of Sister Mary Teresa, she arrived in India in 1929 and underwent initial training in religious life at a convent in Darjeeling, north of Calcutta. Two years later, she took temporary vows as a nun before transferring to a convent in Calcutta. She became known as Mother Teresa in 1937, when she took her final vows.

The stamp features a portrait of Mother Teresa painted by award-winning artist Thomas Blackshear II of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 150 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. The Postal Service receives no direct support from taxpayers. With 36,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, the Postal Service relies on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses. Named the Most Trusted Government Agency five consecutive years and the sixth Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute, the Postal Service has annual revenue of more than \$68 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail. If it were a private sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 28th in the 2009 Fortune 500.