September 5th: Saint Teresa of Calcutta, religious

Gospel text (*Mt* 25:31-40): Jesus said to his disciples, "(…) The good people will ask him: 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food; thirsty and give you drink or a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to see you?'. The King will answer, 'Truly, I say to you: when¬ever you did this to these little ones who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me'".

Saint Teresa of Calcutta, religious (1910-1997)

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(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today we celebrate Mother Teresa, who in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. She was committed to defending life, ceaselessly proclaiming that «the unborn are the weakest, the smallest, the most vulnerable».

She bowed down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity; she made her voice heard before the powers of this world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime of poverty they created. For Mother Teresa, mercy was the "salt" which gave flavor to her work, it was the "light" which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering.

—May this tireless worker of mercy help us increasingly to understand that our only criterion for action is gratuitous love, free from every ideology and all obligations, offered freely to everyone without distinction of language, culture, race or religion. Mother Teresa loved to say, «Perhaps I don't speak their language, but I can smile».