

Dear Friend,

It was a great blessing to know Mother Teresa. Many years ago she opened up a community for her sisters in the South Bronx and often when she would come to New York I would visit her and celebrate Mass for all of the locally gathered Missionaries of Charity.

If you ever want to feel self conscious try preaching to Mother Teresa! Compared to what insights she would tell me I often felt like I was reading out of the Yellow Pages while offering a Homily.

Yet she was always kind and respectful when she told me how much she appreciated the words I offered and the Sacrifice of the Mass.

I often think about Mother when it comes to the women and children we serve at Good Counsel. Mother's face would become radiant and animated when she came face to face with a child. She greatly loved children because she could see the face of God.

Adult faces can be tired, worn and masked with grief, anxiety and various neuroses, but the face of a child is very close to the beauty and image God wants all of us to have.

Mother Teresa is universally known as someone who loved and cared for the poorest of the poor. In the United States we have many poor. There are those who live under bridges in our cities. There are those who push shopping carts around all day looking to collect bottle deposits. And there are those who sell sex in order to support a drug addiction.

All these souls need our care and yet, if you wish to really help the poorest of the poor in the US today, you must look to little children.

At Good Counsel we have seen pregnant mentally ill women, mothers who have a drug addiction and mothers who are HIV positive. The children of these mothers are born with two strikes against them and our culture does not always value their lives. However, if you have eyes to see, you can view the face of God in the faces of these children.

When Our Saviour was carrying the cross to Golgotha he was not a pretty sight. There was nothing in his earthly appearance that hinted who he was and many in the crowd were easily swayed to join in the jeers of "*Crucify him!*"

Be careful not to miss the likeness and image of God in the babies born today, particularly those born in our Good Counsel homes. The mothers in our homes may come from abusive, neglected and poor socio economic environments, but their children are truly *children of God* and deserve a chance for a better life.

Mother Teresa never missed the opportunity to marvel at the face of a child and encouraged others to cherish human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

Thank you for supporting Good Counsel homes and making a way to care for today's poorest of the poor.