

The Mother Teresa Institute (MTI) has undergone some changes through the first few months of 2026. The first quarter saw a significant amount of travel from the Director, Fr. Brian, who led a retreat in Europe for Corpus Christi Movement priests in Lourdes, visited the Mother Teresa Center in Tijuana, and attended the release of the documentary “Mother Teresa in Rome” at the end of March. The research fellow, Joe Evans, attended the World Christianity Conference at the Universidade Catolica de Pernambuco in Brazil and then represented the MTI at the International Marian Research Institute’s annual Marian Forum in Dayton, Ohio. Simultaneously, we have made some personnel changes as our longtime Executive Assistant, Monique LeBlanc, has moved on and was replaced by an intern, Christina Koman. We are preparing for the arrival of our Executive Research Assistant, Clara Roberts, in May. Due to the transition, we will postpone our Student Research Symposium from April to June as we continue preparing for the next annual Colloquium in September. We also continue to work on our 20th Century Saints collaborative project and may have additional programs to engage the community, which will be announced in our next newsletter.

Upcoming 2026-2027 Events Schedule

JUN 8, 2026	Submissions Due for Student Research Symposium
JUN 26, 2026	Student Research Symposium (MTI - Virtual)
JUN-AUG 2026	Summer Reading Partnership Program
SEP 4-5, 2026	Annual Colloquium & Keynote Lecture / Mother Teresa’s Feast Day
DEC, 2026	Advent Reading Partnership Program
Spring 2027	20 th Century Saints Conference (Washington, DC)

Anyone with interest or questions about joining the reading partnership should contact the MTI Research Fellow, Joe Evans at joseph@mtinstitute.org.

Publication Review

Langford, Joseph, MC. *Mother Teresa: In the Shadow of Our Lady - Sharing Mother Teresa’s Mystical Relationship with Mary*. Huntington, IN, Our Sunday Visitor Press, 2007.

Father Joseph Langford, MC, offers a concise but intense glimpse into Saint Teresa of Calcutta’s passionate Marian devotion and how her love for the Blessed Mother influenced the charism and work of the Missionaries of Charity. This short text explores the mystical relationship between these two mothers, which can promote one’s own Marian devotion while offering further insight into a woman described as the “embodiment of Mary in our midst” (12). Fr. Joseph’s engaging approach is relevant to the study of spirituality, Mariology, and the life of Mother Teresa.

Please forward information for published articles or materials to mti@mtinstitute.org.

Words from Mother Teresa

During these days the Passion of Christ has been your strength. May the Risen Christ be your Joy and your Peace.

May the joy of our Risen Lord be your strength in your work—your way to the Father, your Light to guide you and your Bread of Life. Remember that the Passion of Christ ends always in the Joy of the Resurrection, so when you feel in your own heart the suffering of Christ, remember the Resurrection has to come—the Joy of Easter has to dawn.

~ Mother Teresa to the MC Sisters, March 22, 1981

Message from the Director

“Remember that the Passion of Christ always ends in the Joy of the Resurrection of Christ, so when you feel in your own heart the suffering of Christ, remember the Resurrection has to come—the Joy of Easter has to dawn. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the Joy of Christ Risen.” St Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa had a way of naming the deepest Christian mystery with disarming simplicity: the Passion always leads to the Resurrection, suffering always ends with joy. She refused to let suffering have the final word — not in her own life, not in the lives of the poor she served, and not in the hearts of those who sought her counsel.

Her reminder is not sentimental. It’s forged from the Cross itself.

Mother Teresa never minimized suffering. She saw it every day—in abandoned children, in the dying, in the lonely, in her own interior darkness. She understood the burden of Christ’s Passion because she bore a part of it in her own heart.

But she also understood that suffering is a passage, not a destination. The Cross is a doorway, not a wall. When she says, “Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ Risen,” she is not denying sorrow. She is placing it in its proper place—beneath the greater truth of Easter.

For Mother Teresa, the Resurrection was not merely a historical event or a future promise. It was a living force that breaks into the present.

It’s the quiet strength that enables someone to continue loving even when love hurts or comes with a cost. It’s having the courage to begin again when everything feels overwhelming. It’s the light that refuses to go out.

The joy of the Risen Christ isn’t loud or flashy. It is grounded in faith and hope. It’s the deep, steady joy that comes from knowing how the story ends. This kind of joy can exist alongside tears because it knows the story’s conclusion.

When we experience the suffering of Christ in our hearts—whether through loss, discouragement, loneliness, or the weight of our own crosses—Mother Teresa’s words offer encouragement.

She is telling us:

- Your pain is acknowledged.
- Your struggle is not in vain.
- Your darkness doesn’t reveal the full truth.

The Resurrection is already at work, even when we cannot yet feel its warmth.

Easter may dawn slowly, but it always dawns. The first Easter morning began in darkness. The women made their way to the tomb before sunrise. Hope was still hidden. But then, dawn broke. It always does.

Mother Teresa encourages us to live with the same confidence: that God is already preparing the dawn even when the night feels long.

Remembering the Resurrection does not mean denying or avoiding the Cross. It is about holding both together, to practice the genius of the Catholic “and,” just as Jesus and Mother Teresa do. It is to let hope be stronger than despair, love stronger than fear, and the promise of Easter stronger than the wounds of Good Friday.

Mother Teresa’s wisdom is ultimately an invitation: to believe that sorrow never has the last word. Christ is Risen, and His joy is meant for each of us.

~ Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, MC

Release of the Documentary “Madre Teresa a Roma”

The Director of the Mother Teresa Institute (MTI), Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, MC, travelled to Rome in March for the presentation of the documentary “Madre Teresa a Roma” at a press conference held at the Sisters’ Vatican home, Dono di Maria. The documentary, written by Don Sergio Mercanzin and directed by Antonio Farisi, was made in collaboration with the Mother Teresa Center. It explores her work and that of the Sisters, which began in Rome in 1968. This community, located in the Tor Fiscale area of Rome, was the first that Mother Teresa established in the city. The film also covers the Sisters' work in subsequent decades. A notable feature of the film is the depth of the interviews. Even though the film focuses on Rome, it conveys a powerful and universal message.



Photo Credits: Vatican News (<https://www.vaticannews.va/it/chiesa/news/2026-03/madre-teresa-calcutta-documentario-rai-presentazione-roma.html>)

International Marian Research Institute: Annual Marian Forum (University of Dayton)

The MTI Research Fellow, Joe Evans, represented the institute at the Annual Marian Forum with the International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton (Ohio) from March 24-26. The program began with a collaborative discussion of the Blessed Virgin Mary and flowers, with a particular focus on Mary gardens, peace gardens, community engagement, and interreligious relations. The second day of the program included research meetings with the director of the Marian Library, presentations on Mary the Unfading Flower and Marian artwork, with a concluding meeting at the International Peace Museum in Dayton to discuss an exhibit focused on Ukraine, Mary, and Peace. The MTI’s participation in this forum may lead to further collaboration between the two institutes.

World Christianity Conference and Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida

The MTI was represented at the annual World Christianity Conference at the Catholic University of Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil from March 9-13, 2026. Joe Evans participated in a panel on ecumenical and interreligious relations for the Catholic Church in Asia. The program also featured dialogue regarding gospel teaching on work with the poor and spiritual development at the Benedictine Monastery in Olinda, Brazil. This was followed by a two-day pilgrimage to the Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida.





Mother Teresa Institute

2026 Student Research Symposium

Call for Papers

Date: Friday, June 26, 2026

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Deadline for Paper Submissions: Monday, June 8, 2026

Event Description

The Mother Teresa Institute announces the first annual student symposium. Saint Teresa of Calcutta was an Albanian nun, originally a Sister of Loretto, who – after receiving a call from Jesus to serve the poorest of the poor – then founded the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India, where she served the poor and marginalized for almost fifty years. The symposium aims to feature research from both undergraduate and graduate students related to the life, work, and writing of Mother Teresa. We encourage proposals from any discipline, department, and institution and welcome participation from students to this no-cost* symposium. The event will include a mentored pre-symposium workshop to facilitate interconnected panel discussions and presentation techniques. Students may utilize any writing (to include original research, course papers, journal articles, dissertation chapters, etc.) as the basis for their proposals.

This one-day virtual (zoom) event is an opportunity for students at colleges and universities from around the world to present and showcase their research related to the life, work, and impact of St. Teresa of Calcutta. The symposium will consist of a plenary session followed by panel presentations from the selected students. In each panel session, students will provide a fifteen-minute presentation on their respective research project. The symposium will conclude with a keynote presentation from the director of the Mother Teresa Institute.

Suggested Topic Areas (only suggestions, not exhaustive):

- Mother Teresa's Love of Jesus
- Mother Teresa's Spirituality
- Mother Teresa and Promoting Peace
- Missionaries of Charity Work with the Poor
- Mother Teresa's Marian Devotion
- Quenching Jesus's Thirst
- Suffering and Spiritual Darkness
- Understanding Mt. 25:40 "You Did it to Me"

Papers intended for consideration in this symposium should be 2000-8000 words. Selected students will be allocated 15 minutes for presenting their research as part of a panel with other student presenters.

** There is no registration fee for this symposium.*

Submission Information

Papers should be 2000-8000 words on a topic that is focused on or related to St. Teresa of Calcutta. All references should be cited using Chicago or APA style. No bibliography is required. Students name and institution must appear on the first page, above the title of the paper.

For questions, contact MTI@mtinstitute.org. Please submit your proposal by June 8, 2026

*** Link for submission can also be found at motherteresainstitute.org ***



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