



Mother Teresa Institute

2026 Student Research Symposium

June 26, 2026

9:00 am – 12:00 pm (ET)

Virtual: <https://villanova.zoom.us/j/91051849451>

Event Description

The Mother Teresa Institute announces its first student research 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 will feature research from both undergraduate and graduate students related to the life, work, and writing of Mother Teresa. This 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 series of presentations from the selected students. Each student will provide a fifteen-minute presentation on their respective research project, which will then be followed by fifteen additional minutes of questions and discussion. The symposium will conclude with a presentation from the director of the Mother Teresa Institute.

Schedule and Participants:

- 9:00-9:15 am Opening Comments and Welcome
Dr. Joe Evans – MTI Research Fellow
- 9:15-9:45 am Presentation 1 (6:45-7:15 pm India Time)
Fr. Tak Francis Vishal – St. Joseph’s Institute of Theology
“St. Teresa of Kolkata: Missionary, Mystic, Message”
- 9:45-10:15 am Presentation 2 (4:45-5:15 pm Kenya Time)
Fr. Darren Dentino, MC – Catholic University of East Africa
“Rethinking Theological Anthropology through the Symbols of Nicaea: Developing the Cultural Narrative Medium for Interpreting and Inculturating Christian Mysteries in Africa”
- 10:15-10:30 am Break
- 10:30-11:00 am Presentation 3
Ermira Maria Henry – Central Michigan University
“Quenching Jesus’s Thirst: Developing the Mother Teresa Human Services Program”
- 11:00-11:30 am Presentation 4
Fr. Louis Mary Bethea, O.P. – Dominican House of Studies
“I Thirst: A Thomistic Analysis of the Theology of St. Teresa of Calcutta”
- 11:30-12:00 pm Assessment and Closing Comments
Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, MC – Director of the MTI