

Examples of victimhood, if we search for them, are countless. Probably some of us have personally known a number of other stoic victim souls.

Serving Souls

And surely, don't we all know hundreds of care-givers for bodies and souls, who have worked tirelessly to bring others to physical and spiritual health. Fr. Leopold Mandic, one of the newest patrons of confessors, spent an average of 16 hours a day in the confessional!

John Haffert, in an effort to save souls, edited four different widely circulated religious magazines! He co-founded the International Blue Army to counter-act the Red Army. He wrote 33 books, most of which are still popular and available.

*He was told by Padre Pio, about one of his books, *The World's Greatest Secret*, that in his lifetime, it would have a moderate degree of success (which had already been sold extensively!), but after his death, it will save *MANY* souls. John's response was, "In that case, I hope that I die soon."*

Mother Teresa, of Calcutta India, founded a large number of Sisters and Brothers, all over the world, to serve the dying and the poor.

Mother Cabrini, the Italian missionary to the U.S, who died in 1917, founded 67 convents with more than 1500 nuns, and a large number of hospitals and orphanages.

Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, the first Saturday of the month, the day dedicated to Mary, and on the eve of Mercy Sunday. We all know what a great warrior of service and suffering he was for God's kingdom. At one time, he said that the only thing missing in his Pontificate, was that he had not shed blood for Christ...but later on, he did.

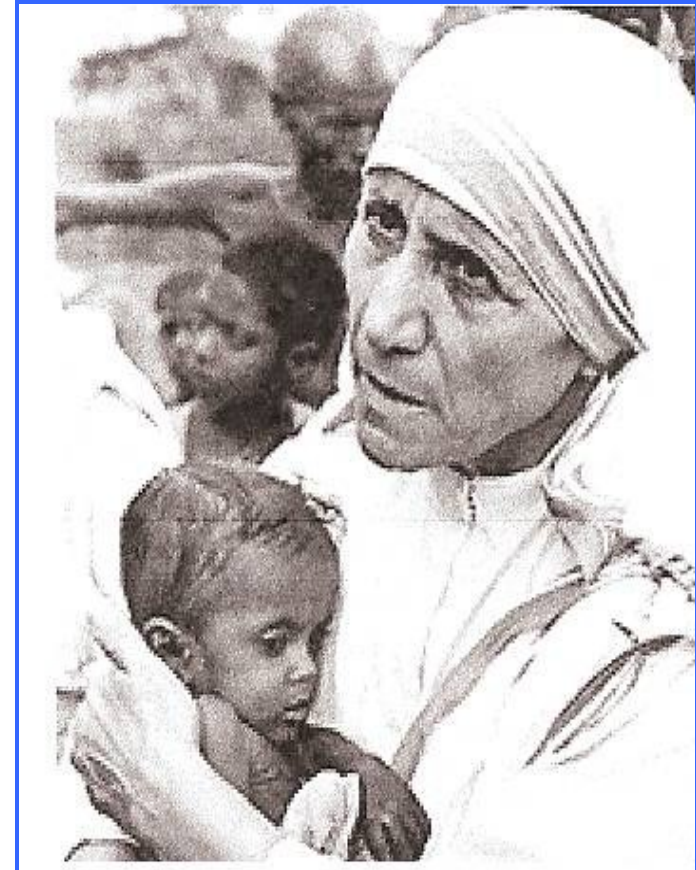
These are only a very few of hundreds of thousands who earned Heaven through suffering and/or service. These people thirsted for souls, as did Jesus, and that is the love which directed them to Heaven.

Let us do the same, and do so going through Mary. It is the most direct route to Heaven!

God willing, we will all meet there.

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Suffering and / or Service



***Before you speak, it is necessary for
you to listen,
for God speaks in the silence of the heart...***

Mother Terese

Suffering and/or Service

by Dr. Rosalie Ann Turton

For some time, I have thought that there are *two* main roads to get to Heaven, and God may take us on one road or the other, and sometimes on both. With the understanding that we believe in God and obey His commandments, and that there is organized prayer in our lives, then we are given the two paths that lead us to Heaven. They are *suffering* and/or *service*.

In most of our lives, we have some of each. You can usually say that you have a lot of little sufferings, but fewer big ones...or a big suffering and fewer little ones...You can say that you have a lot of little services, but fewer big ones...or a big service and fewer little ones.

I believe that you can be a victim or a care-giver. You can be a leader or a follower. I feel that any of these roles, along with obedience and prayer, are the sure routes to Heaven.

And who goes to the higher place in Heaven, the victim or the care giver...the leader or the follower? Well, I think that it is usually the one who performs the function with the *most love*.

Which role has God given to you? Be happy, because you can know that it is the best role for your salvation. If you perform your role with acceptance and love, you can soar to a very high place in Heaven.

I remember one visionary telling me that she saw the saints in Heaven, beckoning her upward, and encouraging her to: "*Go higher, go higher!*" She has been generally healthy, but her role in life has been mainly a high degree of service.

Suffering Souls

We all know of some suffering saintly souls whom God has sustained with many miracles. Few of us are called upon by God to a life like theirs, but they are an example to all of us, as were Jesus and Mary, Themselves.

Some contemporary examples of suffering souls are Sister Agnes Sasagawa, of Akita, Japan. When she was young, she was paralyzed for 16 years after an appendectomy. In 1969, she lapsed into a three-day coma, that was caused by a virus.

While she was recuperating in the hospital, her Guardian Angel appeared to her and taught her the "**Decade Prayer**" of Fatima: "*Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of Your mercy.*"

The angel told Sr. Agnes to repeat the prayer after each decade of the Rosary. A priest who had heard her reciting it one day expressed amazement, for he knew that it had not yet been translated into Japanese!

Later, when she returned to the convent, Sr. Agnes became deaf. The doctors said that the malady was incurable. However, her angel told her that she would regain her hearing on October 13, 1974, and that is precisely what happened. Bishop John Ito was the first one to observe the cure!

Eight year old Jacinta of Fatima, Portugal, was also a suffering soul. At one time, she endured lung surgery *without* an anesthetic!

Padre Pio, from San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, who died in 1968, did the same as Jacinta, in order to be obedient to the directive not to show anyone his stigmatic wounds. He feared that the doctors would examine them while he was anesthetized. During the surgery without the anesthesia, he fainted, and the doctors took the opportunity to do just that!

Therese Neumann of Germany, who died in 1962, did not eat, drink, sleep, or have bodily functions for forty years!

Marthe Robin, of France, who died in 1981, did not sleep and went without any form of nourishment, including water, for thirty years!