Mother Teresa of Calcutta ends month-long tour of U.S., Canada

(NC) - During a monthlong tour of the United States and Canada, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, founder of the Missionaries of Charity and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, coupled denunciations of abortion with calls to love the poor.

Practicing what she preached, she committed the sisters of her order to staff a home for pregnant unmarried women in Little Rock. Ark., and visited new houses of her sisters in the inner city of Newark, N.J., and poverty-stricken rural Appalachia.

The 71-year-old nun traveled from coast to coast and visited Washington; San Francisco; Louisville, Ky.; St. Paul, Alberta, and other cities between the end of May and the end of June.

At Georgetown University on May 30, she told the 1,449 graduates of the 193-year-old Jesuit institution that they were being sent to be a sign of God's love in the world. "What you have been given is not for you only," she said. urging the graduates to proclaim God's love by the lives they live, by the joy they share, the joy of loving Jesus.

Those young people who are in love with someone are sharing "God's gift to you." but when contemplating marriage should love each other "with a clean heart" and give to each other 'a virgin heart, a virgin body." merging their hearts together in God's, she said.

"Another thing." she said. "make sure you come to know the poor, wherever you are." The poor are a gift from God and are "lonely for love" and respect. "which we have taken away from them," she told the graduates.

On the same day, Mother Teresa gave a similar message to the 870 graduates of Niagara University in Niagara Falls, N.Y. "You have received something beautiful, so make your life beautiful before God," she said. "I say to you young people, love

"How do you love God?" she asked. "By sharing with others, the hungry, the naked, the unwanted, the

sick, the dying."

At a news conference later, Mother Teresa was asked if she thought politicians could be doing more for people in the world. "I do not know much about politics," she responded, "but I do know if the politicians would spend more time on their knees in prayer the world would be a better place."

On June 1, at a Mass in the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, Va., Mother Teresa said, "The most precious gift of God is a child, for he is the image and likeness of God. With abortion we are killing the likeness of God, of Jesus. We are killing the unborn child."

On a visit to Little Rock, Ark., June 2-3, Mother Te-

resa spent two and a half

hours inspecting House, a year-old founded by Jim and Pat Grabner to provide medical care and financial assistance to young unmarried women considering abortion. From the second-floor balcony of the 18-room building, she announced to a crowd of about 500 outside. "I have no gold or silver to give you, but I give you my sisters."

The next afternoon, Mother Teresa told a crowd of 5,500 in a baseball stadium that abortion is "murder" and that peace cannot be attained in the world "while innocent unborn babies are slain by their mothers."

A day later, in San Francisco's St. Mary's Cathedral, Mother Teresa recalled to a crowd of more than 3,000 that the unborn child in the womb of Elizabeth, cousin of the Blessed Virgin, leapt when Mary visited her. "This little unborn child was proclaiming the presence of God." she said.

"And today, the little unborn child has become the target of destruction. That little unborn child — we are afraid of him. The mother is afraid of the child. The mother wantes to destroy her own child."

At a news conference in San Francisco, Mother Teresa said, "Holiness is meant for all of us. It is not a luxury." She told the reporters to find their holiness in their work.

Later in the month, a spokesman for Archbishop John Quinn of San Francisco said Mother Teresa had accepted the archbishop's invitation to open a novitiate of her order in that city.

On June 5, Mother Teresa told 22 graduates of Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, Calif., to become carriers of God's love "serve him in the distressing disguise of the poor."

The next day in Fort Wayne, Ind., Mother Teresa repeated an anecdote told often during her tour. "One day." she said, "I met a lady others as God loves zyou a who was dying of cancer. She Show your love by giving. Its lootwas in the most terrible pain and I told her, 'This pain is the kiss of Jesus. You have come so close to Jesus on the cross. He must love you very much.' And this woman said to me, 'Please tell Jesus to stop kissing me."

On June 9, Class Day at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., Mother Teresa said, "My advice to you is to make it a point to go and pray, to go once a week and be alone with God."

The diminutive nun also told 20,000 students, parents and guests that virginity "is the greatest gift a man and woman can give to one another."

Abortion is "one of the greatest tragedies." she said, "because a woman is afraid of having to feed and educate one more child."

The next day, Mother Teresa received an honorary

degree from Harvard, the

nation's oldest university.

She told The Pilot, Boston archdiocesan newspaper, that by giving her the honorary degree Harvard was "recognizing the poor."

In Kentucky to visit the members of her order who have opened a house in Jenkins in the heart of Appalachia, Mother Teresa said in Covington on June 19 that service to other human beings is service to God. "That's how we show our love for Jesus...It's not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving."

Telling her listeners "we often don't know the poor in our own family," she said, "Poverty is not only material. There is a poverty of the heart too."

On June 21, in Charleston, S.C., Mother Teresa was honored by the Charleston Diocese, which presented her with its first Mater Ecclesia Award and by the South Carolina Legislature, which recognized her through a joint resolution.

Questioned at a news conference there about efforts to further her canonization, she said: "Please, let me die first."

At Bellarmine College in Louisville, Ky., on June 22, Mother Teresa told husbands and wives in a crowd of 4,200, "Have time for each other. Have time for your children...The home is the place for tenderness and

love. "Much of the difficulties of the little children, even the big children, is that they come home from school and there is no one to receive them...And the child goes back to the street. There are drugs and there are people who are willing to take them."

In Newark on June 29 for the dedication of a shelter for homeless women run by her Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa stressed the importance of love — love for the poor, for the unborn and for each other.

"Love is not words," she said. "It is action. Our vocation is to love."

In the United States, she added, there are people hungry not only for food but for love. "Their hunger is loneliness," she said.

Having delivered her message to many people in many places, Mother Teresa departed to return to India and the poor and dying in Calcutta and other cities there.

CONVENTION

(Continued from page 3) any and every girl who needs it," she said.

Lore Maier, founder of Alternatives to Abortion International, a federation of prolife pregnancy services based in Toledo, Ohio, said her organization had 1,100 groups nationally and 2,500 in 56. countries throughout the world.

"All women in the world have an intrinsic aversion to the destruction of human life. We can reach them — if only they know that we