

MARTIN SHEEN

She did not want people serving the poor as if they were doing them a favor. On the contrary, you want to be welcome in their presence, and you want them to feel human and equal and be merciful to you, the giver.

MARK MASSA

There's a big difference between Mother Teresa and Dorothy Day's understanding of the poor. I think Mother Teresa really did do this out of goodness and . . . felt that out of our charity and of the kind of selflessness we're called to . . . that we should take care of the poor. I think Dorothy Day had a very different vision. The thing with charity or altruism . . . she would say, 'These people have a claim on us. That it's not out of charity, it's out of justice.'

KATE HENNESSY

Voluntary poverty was an essential element of the work she was doing. And she believed in it, because she said, 'You cannot do this work coming from a position of being comfortable yourself.'

JOAN CHITTISTER

That whole notion of hospitality, that you are at the ready to take people into your own life, whatever that might mean.

MARK MASSA

This idea that every Christian has a personal responsibility to get involved in taking care of our brothers and sisters. . . . When someone comes to us and asks for help, we can't say, 'The state office is down the street,' or 'I can't give you these coupons, but I can send you to the right office.' She said that was the wrong response. . . . [T]he profound theological truth she saw was that we should do something for the other because that changes us. It doesn't just change the other person, we are changed.