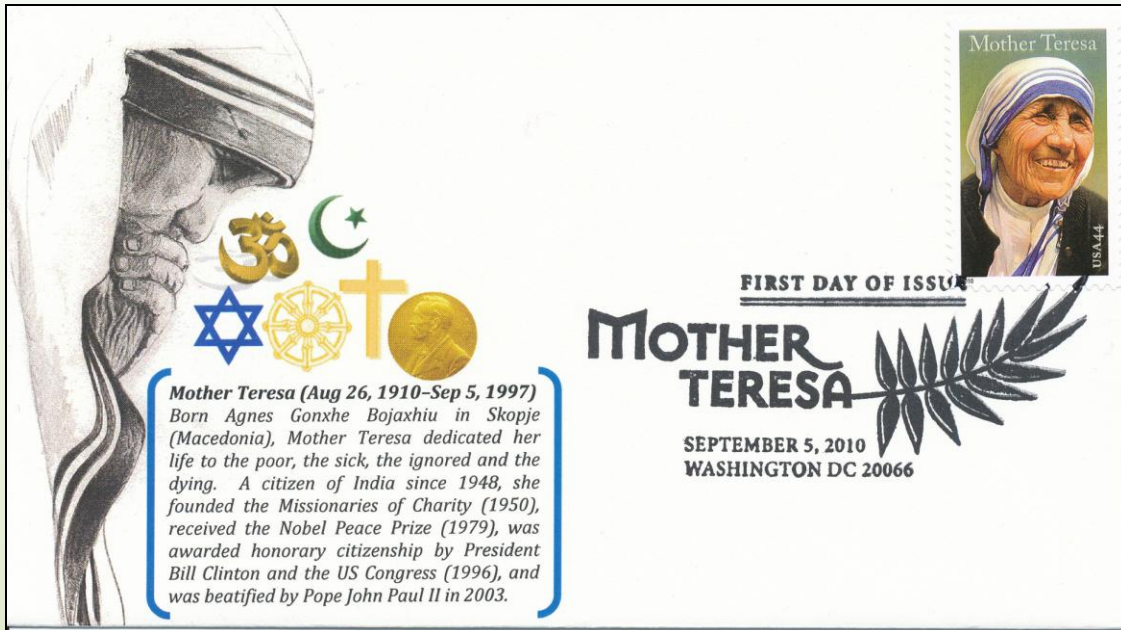




On September 5<sup>th</sup> 2010, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth, The United States Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating Mother Teresa. "Noted for her compassion toward the poor and suffering, Mother Teresa, a diminutive Roman Catholic nun and honorary U.S. citizen, served the sick and destitute of India and the world for nearly 50 years," the Postal Service said in a press release. "Her humility and compassion, as well as her respect for the innate worth and dignity of humankind, inspired people of all ages and backgrounds to work on behalf of the world's poorest populations."

This set of four first day covers commemorates the occasion with a "multi-faith" theme and cachet text with red/blue and saffron/green borders [flag colors from the US and India]. A brief biography of Mother Teresa, extracted from announcements from several postal authorities on this occasion, is the subject of the blue cachet. Countering voices raised by "secular" and atheist community organizations in objection to the issue of this commemorative stamp in the United States, the "interfaith" nature of Mother Teresa's lifelong work is highlighted through quotes from her and corresponding quotes from prominent spiritual leaders from other faiths [Mahatma Gandhi and the Dalai Lama] in three other cachets.





Five sets of these commemorative covers were prepared by philatelist Raj V. Rajan of Victor, NY and processed with the first day cancel in Washington, DC. As with the Nobel centennial covers prepared at Chicagopex 2001 and the UN-Obama Nobel Peace Prize commemorative covers prepared December 2009, these 2010 commemorative covers will be shared with a select group of organizations and individuals.

Information on the design and preparation of the 2001 Nobel Centennial commemorative covers can be found at <http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/Gandhi and the Nobel Peace Prize.pdf>. Information on the design and preparation of the 2009 UN-Obama Nobel Peace Prize commemorative covers can be found at <http://gandhi.topicalphilately.com/PDF/2009 Nobel Peace Prize and the UN.pdf>. The 2001 and 2009 special covers were prepared to be shared with (1) The Nobel Museum, Stockholm, Sweden, (2) Gandhi Memorial Museum, New Delhi, India, and (3) The M.K. Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence [then at Memphis TN, USA and now in Rochester NY, USA]. The 2010 commemorative covers will also be shared with the same organizations.





One other related commemorative cover was prepared on September 5<sup>th</sup> 2010, to be shared in limited quantities with other philatelists. This cover has the same cachet as the orange bordered cachet in the commemorative set, except that the text is aligned slightly different and the border color is grey. As with the other cachets, this cover includes a profile portrait sketch of Mother Teresa, along with icons representing major world faiths- Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism and an image of the Nobel Peace Prize medal.

