



A Life of Heroic Virtue: Key Moments in the Life of Dorothy Day



1897 - Dorothy Day is born on November 8 in Brooklyn, New York.

1906 - Having moved near San Francisco, Day's family experienced the 1906 earthquake and soon moves to Chicago.

1916 - Day drops out of the University of Illinois at Urbana and heads to New York, where she socializes with other radicals and lives among the poor.

1917 - Day is arrested outside the White House during a demonstration for women's suffrage. She is jailed and joins a hunger strike. She is released after 17 days.

1924 - With the film rights to her semi-autobiographical novel, *The Eleventh Virgin*, she buys a beach bungalow on Staten Island and begins a relationship with Forster Batterham.

1926 - Day gives birth to Tamar Teresa, and has her baptized in 1927. Several months later, Day becomes Catholic and ends her romantic relationship with Forster.

1932 - Day travels to Washington, D.C. to cover the "Hunger March of the Unemployed" and prays at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 for direction. On her return to New York, she meets Peter Maurin, a French worker, scholar, and former De La Salle brother who invites her to start a newspaper and a movement that may build "a new society within the shell of the old."

1933 - The first issue of *The Catholic Worker* is distributed in Union Square with a circulation of 2,500 copies. A year later, the first houses of hospitality are established on the Lower East Side.

1936 - *Catholic Worker* moves to 115 Mott Street and a farm is established in Pennsylvania. The newspaper's circulation reaches 150,000. When the Spanish Civil War begins, Day takes a pacifist position for which she is criticized by both the left and the right.

1938 - Day publishes *From Union Square to Rome*, a book on her conversion story.

1939 - Day publishes *House of Hospitality*, describing the first five of the *Catholic Worker*.

1940-1945 In the midst of the Second World War, Day reaffirms the *Catholic Worker*'s stance as a pacifist movement. In 1945, she publicly condemns the development and use of nuclear weapons.

1948 - Day publishes *On Pilgrimage*, a "women's book, and for women."

1949 - Peter Maurin dies on May 15, the Solemnity of St. John Baptist de La Salle.

1952 - Day publishes *The Long Loneliness*, her most famous autobiographical memoir.

1955-1961 - Day is arrested five times for annual protests to the mandatory civil defense drills until the drills are canceled in 1961. She serves a total of 45 days in jail.

1957 - Day travels to Georgia to support the interracial Koinonia community. She is shot at while taking a turn as sentry.

1960 - Day publishes *Thérèse*, a biography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

1963-1967 - Day travels to Rome three times. The first is for a peace pilgrimage in 1963, the same year she publishes *Loaves and Fishes*, a book about *Catholic Worker*. In 1965, she returns to Rome for a 10-day fast to encourage the Second Vatican Council to condemn war. And in 1967, she visits Rome for the 3rd International Congress of the Laity. She is one of two Americans invited to receive Communion from St. Paul VI.

1965 - Day supports the actions of young *Catholic Workers* in burning draft cards to protest the Vietnam War.

1970-1973 - In 1970, Day travels to Australia, England, Hong Kong, India, Rome and Tanzania. In Calcutta, she spends several days with Mother Teresa and her community. Later, she travels to Eastern Europe and Russia (1971), and the United Kingdom (1973).

1973 - At 75, Day joins Cesar Chavez in support of the United Farm Workers in California. She is arrested again and spends two weeks in a prison farm.

1980 - Dorothy Day dies at Maryhouse in New York on November 29. A funeral Mass is celebrated at the Church of the Nativity in Manhattan, and she is buried in the Cemetery of the Resurrection on Staten Island.

2000 - John Cardinal O'Connor initiates the cause of sainthood for Day. The Vatican grants her the title "Servant of God."

2005 - The Dorothy Day Guild, a group of friends and supporters of Day, is established to promote her life and works. With over one hundred volunteers, they begin gathering extensive evidence to attest to her holiness.

2012 - The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops unanimously vote to endorse the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day at their fall general assembly.

2015 - Pope Francis uplifts Day as one of four model Americans in an address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

2021 - 137 boxes containing more than 50,000 pages of documents on Day's cause are sent to Rome. This concludes the diocesan phase of the canonization process, and begins the next, Roman phase. Timothy Cardinal Dolan celebrates a Mass of Thanksgiving on December 8 at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

2022-2023 - New York City commissions a new Staten Island Ferry named after Dorothy Day. A sizable crowd of Catholic Workers, friends, family, and officials gather for the inaugural ride on April 27, 2023.

