
INTRODUCTION

Mother Teresa was a model of gentleness, of love and kindness; she was a safe guide to high ideals, and, from her childhood, was dowered with a benignity, tenderness and holiness which poured light into life and made joy more joyous. Her mental and spiritual endowments were of the finest and most delicate texture and the rich attributes of her mind seemed, to those who knew her well, only inferior to the warmth and generosity of her large and tender heart.

She possessed that peculiar quality which has been called the Science of the Saints, for to a safe and prudent asceticism she united a singular gift of penetration, and a knowledge of the workings of grace in the souls of those habitually associated with her.

For the professed nuns her conversation carried a note of the highest spirituality, for the novices it partook of a holy familiarity and condescension for human weakness, while to the educated and cultured ladies, who often called at the Abbey, her speech and voice were those of one endowed with the rare qualities of sympathy, delicacy of feeling and exceptional grace of manner. Born and educated in the bosom of refinement, she was intimately familiar with all the graces and courtesies belonging to high and exclusive society. She imparted a refinement of manner and address to the young members of her Community and to the pupils of Loretto, and these accomplishments are an inheritance left to the nuns of the Institute and to the past-graduates of the Abbey.