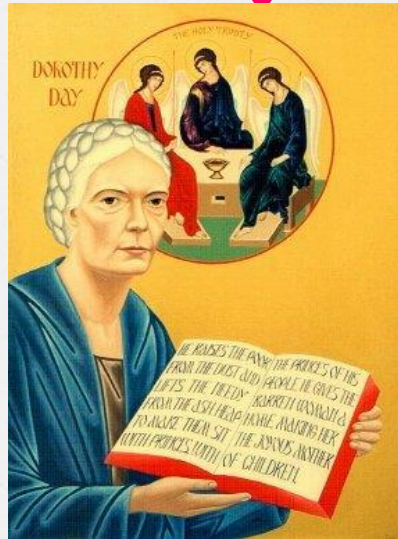


Dorothy Day



"Your love for God is only as great as the love you have for the person you love the least.."



Born: 8 November 1897

Birthplace: Brooklyn, New York

Died: 29 November 1980

Best Known As: Laywoman who co-founded *The Catholic Worker*

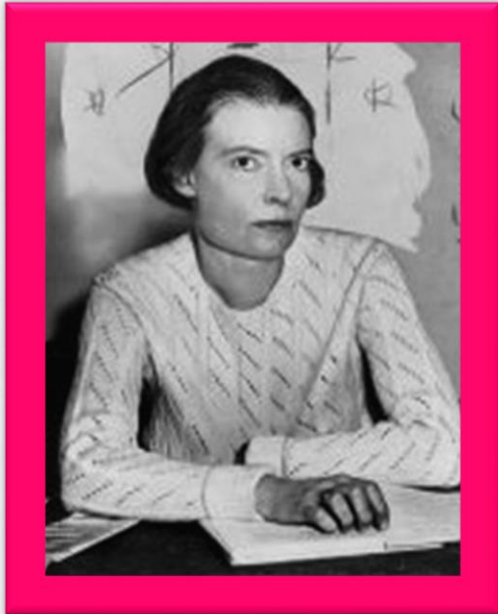
Parents: John and Grace (nee Satterlee) Day.

Her father, John Day, was a Tennessee native of Scotch-Irish heritage, while her mother, Grace Satterlee, a native of upstate New York, was of English ancestry.

[Trailer for film 'Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story'](http://youtu.be/MDPHWTWwHkA) <http://youtu.be/MDPHWTWwHkA>



- In 1914, Day attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on a scholarship, but dropped out after two years and moved to New York City.
- In November 1917, Day went to prison for being one of forty women in front of the White House protesting women's exclusion from the electorate.



- In 1924, Day wrote her semi-autobiographical novel, *The Eleventh Virgin* in which she described the bohemian life she had been living. In these years she had one common-law marriage and an abortion.
- She bought a small beach cottage on the shore of Staten Island and loved the beauty of the natural world and the quiet of the place.

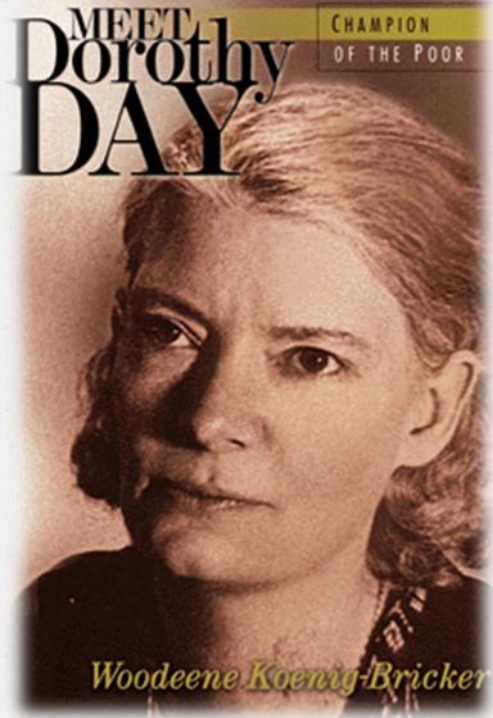


- Day began a period of spiritual awakening which would lead her to embrace Catholicism. She began to attend Mass on Sundays at the nearby Catholic church.
- Unexpectedly, Day found that she was pregnant and her partner Forster Batterham opposed having children. Despite his opposition, she resolved to have her child and to have it baptised. Day had identified with the people of the working class, and everywhere she went the majority had been Roman Catholics, thus she chose to give her allegiance to that faith.



- In 1927, Day converted to Catholicism. Immediately after her baptism, she made her first Confession, and she made her First Communion the following day.
- In 1932, Day met Peter Maurin. He was a man of deep intellect and he had a vision of social justice and its connection with the poor which was partly inspired by St. Francis of Assisi.
- Maurin provided Day with the grounding in Catholic theology of the need for social action.

The Catholic Worker



- The Catholic Worker movement started with the publication of the Catholic Worker, first issued on 1 May 1933.
- By December, 100,000 copies were being printed each month. The Catholic Worker expressed dissatisfaction with the social order and took the side of labour unions. It wasn't only radical but religious calling on its readers to make personal responses.
- Surrounded by people in need and attracting volunteers excited about ideas they discovered in The Catholic Worker, Day's apartment became a 'house of hospitality' for the homeless.



A.J. Muste and Dorothy Day join in a draft-card burning to protest the war in Vietnam:
"We must have a community, a group, an exchange with others."

Photo credit: Tom Cornell, Ben Fernandez and the Marquette University Library

- The *Catholic Worker* became a national movement. By 1936 there were 33 Catholic Worker houses spread across the country.
- Day believed in pacifism. During World War II she wrote in the *Catholic Worker* that "Our manifesto is the Sermon on the Mount." The means of action the Catholic Worker movement supported were the works of mercy rather than the works of war.
- Concern with the Church's response to war led Day to Rome during the Second Vatican Council. In 1963 Day was one of 50 "Mothers for Peace" who went to Rome to thank Pope John for his encyclical *Pacem in Terris*.



- Day travelled the world to preach the power of God's love and the way of pacifism. She went to India, where she met Mother Teresa and saw her work. She joined Cesar Chavez in his efforts to provide justice for farm labourers in the fields of California. There she was arrested with other protestors, at the age of 76, spending ten days in jail.
- Day gave her final public appearance at the Eucharistic Congress held in the City of Philadelphia on the 6 August 1976. She spoke on the love God has for us, and the need to spread that love throughout creation. Day characteristically tied in her message to the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on that day.



- Dorothy Day died on 29 November 1980 at Maryhouse in New York City.
- She was proposed for sainthood by the Claretian Missionaries in 1983. Pope John Paul II granted the Archdiocese of New York permission to open Day's "cause" for sainthood in March 2000, thereby officially making her a "Servant of God" in the eyes of the Catholic Church.

"If I have achieved anything in my life," she once remarked, "it is because I have not been embarrassed to talk about God."

Watch short film about Dorothy day:

<http://youtu.be/RKiLCDaCAOU>

