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Homily at Mass of Canonization for St. Teresa of Kolkata

Pope Francis

With a large tapestry bearing the portrait of the woman known as the "Saint of the Gutters" suspended above him, Pope Francis proclaimed the sainthood of St. Teresa of Kolkata, hailing her courage and love for the poor. Despite the formality of the occasion though, "her holiness is so near to us, so tender and so fruitful that we continue to spontaneously call her 'Mother Teresa,'" Pope Francis said to applause at the canonization Mass Sept. 4. "Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and

"It takes a certain daring and courage to recognize the divine Master in the poorest of the poor and those who are cast aside, and to give oneself in their service."

discarded," the pope said in his homily during the Mass in St. Peter's Square. An estimated 120,000 people packed the square. In his homily, Pope Francis said God's will is explained in the words of the prophets: "I want mercy, not sacrifice." Like Mother Teresa, he said, Christians are called not simply to perform acts of charity, but to live charity as a vocation and "to grow each day in love." He added, "Wherever someone is reaching out, asking for a helping hand in order to get up, this is where our presence — and the presence of the church, which sustains and offers hope — must be." Pope Francis spoke in Italian; a Vatican translation of his homily follows, copyright © 2016 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

Who can learn the counsel of God?" (Wis 9:13). This question from the Book of Wisdom that we have just heard in the first reading suggests that our life is a mystery and that we do not possess the key to understanding it. There are always two protagonists in history: God and man. Our task is to perceive the call of God and then to do his will. But in order to do his will, we must ask ourselves, What is God's will in my life?

We find the answer in the same passage of the Book of Wisdom: "People were taught what pleases you" (Wis 9:18). In order to ascertain the call of God, we must ask ourselves and understand what pleases God.

On many occasions the prophets pro-

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