

Establishing the Alpha Fund

The Alpha Fund, established at the 2009 Triennial Assembly, was named in honor of the first Junior Daughter's chapter formed in 1896 by Mary C. Davenport, the first Junior Directress. The Fund provides financial support to Junior Directresses in their efforts to extend Christ's kingdom among young women and girls through the ministry of the Junior Daughters of the King. Grants from this fund help start new Junior Chapters, defray transportation costs to visit chapters and attend retreats and other JDOK events, and fund education, study and program materials, activities, service projects, and retreats. The Alpha Fund, now in its seventh year, has become a vital part of the Junior Daughter ministry. September 5th was chosen as the ingathering day for the Alpha Fund in part to honor Mother Teresa who passed on this day in 1997. Mother Teresa's life and ministry is perfect, not just for our Junior Daughters but also for all Daughters, to reflect upon as she is the epitome of prayer, service and evangelism.

As we approach her canonization, which is September 4, 2016, in Rome, I encourage you to take some time to study Mother Teresa's life. Learn about how she first knew the Lord was calling her at 12 years of age, how she joined the Sisters of Loreto at 18 years of age, how she founded the Missionaries of Charity when she was in her 40s and worked for the poorest of the poor well into her 80s.

Throughout her life and ministry, she exemplified the important role children have in the Kingdom of God. From hearing Him speak to her at such a young age, to serving Him by caring for His precious little ones, she shows us that children and young people are invaluable in the eyes of God.

It is my hope and prayer that the Alpha Fund's Ingathering Day not only honors Mother Teresa but also, in some small way, pays tribute to her legacy by drawing our attention to her life and calling. By doing so, we also pay tribute to our own girls and young women for whom, as Mary Davenport says, "we have a responsibility." Mary goes on to say that "the first and most important thing is that a little girl coming under our care, needs to be taught her relation to God as a member of Christ and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven." I believe that through the programs the Alpha Fund supports we are achieving just that. Thank you for your generous support of the fund. May God bless our Junior Daughters and the Directresses who care for them.

Jen Mariano

National Junior Directress (2006-2012)

Alpha Fund Chair (2009-2015)

For more information on "The Canonization of the Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata" go to the following link: <http://www.mothers Teresa.org/Can/index-eng.html>