

## TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN DOROTHY DAY’S LIFE

Developed by Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty

Dorothy Day’s autobiographical writings are not arranged chronologically. Her life and work in a house of hospitality also did not afford her the time to review, edit, and revise her work with scholarly precision. The timeline that you see below is intended to help you to consider the significance of her writings and activism within a much larger context. You will notice that events within Day’s personal life are listed as parallel events alongside noteworthy events within the Catholic Worker Community, for the Roman Catholic Church, as well as in the U.S. and around the world. Day was certainly aware of all the events you will find on the timeline. She made significant comments on them in many of her columns in *The Catholic Worker* paper. Sometimes her own story intersects in more significant ways with the noteworthy events of the church, the U.S. and the world. However, Day ultimately believed that her commitments irradiated from her personalist center and commitment to Christ. The timeline is intended to set her work in context and to reflect that belief.

This timeline was developed by Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty in conjunction with her book on *Dorothy Day for The Armchair Theologians’ Series* published by Westminster John Knox (forthcoming September 2014). To suggest additions or corrections please contact Elizabeth at [ehinsonhasty@bellarmine.edu](mailto:ehinsonhasty@bellarmine.edu).

Dates	Day’s Personal Life	Noteworthy Events for the Catholic Worker Community	Noteworthy Events in the Catholic Church	Noteworthy U.S. and World Events
1891			Pope Leo XIII (pope from 1878-1903) publishes <i>Rerum Novarum</i> . Sets context for 20 <sup>th</sup> c. Catholic social teaching, discussions on living wages, and trade unions.	
1897	November 8 - Dorothy Day is born to Grace Satterlee and John Day in Brooklyn, NY. Her siblings: Donald (1895), Sam Houston (1896), Delafield or “Della,” (1899), John (1912).			William McKinley begins serving as president of U.S.
1901				Theodore Roosevelt begins serving as president of U.S. Socialist Party forms in the U.S.
1903	Day family moves to California. Lives first in Berkeley and later in Oakland.		Pope Pius X begins serving (pope from 1903-1914)	

1906	Days move to Chicago.		Great San Francisco earthquake occurs on April 16.
1909			William Howard Taft begins serving president of U.S.
1912			Eugene Debs, Socialist candidate for president, gets nearly a million votes.
1913			Woodrow Wilson begins serving as president of U.S.
1914	Dorothy graduates from High School at age 16. Enrolls in University of Illinois, Urbana. Meets Rayna Simons (Prohme). In college, Dorothy joins the Socialist Club and Socialist Party for a brief period.	Pope Benedict XV begins serving (pope from 1914-1922)	June 28 - Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria sparks beginning of WWI.
1916	Moves to New York. Accepts position at Socialist newspaper <i>The Call</i> . Remains with <i>The Call</i> for about seven months. Then takes a job with <i>The Masses</i> .		
1917	Dorothy joins the line with suffrage demonstrators after suppression of <i>The Masses</i> . Jailed on November 10 in Washington, DC for participating in a suffrage demonstration. Upon returning to New York, takes job with <i>The Liberator</i> , the paper that succeeds <i>The Masses</i> .		U.S. declares war on Germany. Woodrow Wilson delivers famous speech before Congress supporting U.S. entering WWI.
1918	Della and Dorothy enroll in a nurses' training course at Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, NY. Dorothy meets Lionel Moise.		Flu pandemic sweeps across the U.S. Armistice signed by Germany to end WWI.
1920	Marries Berkeley Tobey after disappointing relationship with Lionel Moise. (Exact date of marriage to Tobey uncertain.)		The nineteenth amendment enacts women's right to vote.
1921	Travels in Europe with Tobey for eight months. Dissolves her marriage upon return to the U.S.		Warren G. Harding begins serving as president of U.S.
1922		Pope Pius XI begins serving (pope from 1922-1939)	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics established.
1923	Moves to New Orleans. Works as a reporter for <i>The New Orleans Item</i> .		Calvin Coolidge begins serving as president of U.S.

1924	Publishes novel called <i>The Eleventh Virgin</i> . Buys cottage on Staten Island with \$5,000 in proceeds from the sale of the book for a movie.			Joseph Stalin rises to power in Russia.
1925	Day meets and falls in love with Forster Batterham.			
1926	March 4 - Dorothy gives birth to Tamar Theresa.			Sacco and Vanzetti are executed on August 23.
1927	Tamar is baptized in July. Dorothy is baptized later that same year Forster and Dorothy separate. Dorothy works for the All-America Anti-Imperialist League and then for the Fellowship of Reconciliation (F.O.R.). Remains lifelong member of F.O.R.			
1929				October - The Great Stock Market Crash marks beginning of economic depression. Herbert Hoover begins serving as president of U.S.
1931			Pope Pius XI publishes <i>Quadragesimo Anno</i> : On Reconstruction of the Social Order. Encyclical calls for social order based upon principles of solidarity and subsidiarity.	
1932	Dorothy travels to Washington. Writes a report on Hunger March organized by unemployed people for <i>America</i> and <i>Commonweal</i> . Upon return to New York from D.C., meets Peter Maurin.			Hunger March in Washington, DC
1933		The first issue of <i>The Catholic Worker</i> newspaper is distributed on May 1 in Union Square, New York.	The Vatican signs agreement with Germany, the <i>Reichskonkordat</i> , partly in effort to end Nazi persecution of Catholic institutions.	Franklin Delano Roosevelt begins serving as president of U.S. New Deal legislation is passed in a series of acts extending through 1937.

1934		Pope Pius XI issues encyclical <i>Mit Brennender Sorge</i> to condemn fascism.	Adolf Hitler elected Fuhrer of Germany.
1936	Headquarters of the Catholic Worker are established at 115 Mott Street. In April, Easton Farm is purchased in Pennsylvania to begin a farm commune. Catholic Workers organize to help Seaman Strikers.		Famed Seaman Strike in New York. Spanish Civil War begins.
1937		Pius XI defines communism as an adversary of the church in <i>Divini Redemptoris</i> issued on March 19.	
1938	<i>From Union Square to Rome</i> published. Dorothy travels with Tamar to Nova Scotia.		House Committee on Un-American Affairs created. Fair Labor Standards Act passed.
1939	<i>House of Hospitality</i> published.	Pope Pius XII begins serving (pope from 1939-1958)	
1940	Travels to D.C. with Joe Zarrella. Testifies before Congress.  Visits the River Rouge Ford Auto Plant in Detroit, Michigan.		Military Affairs Committee holds hearings on bill related to compulsory military training.
1941	Dorothy attends a retreat led by Fr. John J. Hugo.  Tamar goes to a boarding school recommended by Ade Bethune.	Hugo retreat begins to inform retreats sponsored by Catholic Worker groups.	Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. U.S. declares war on Japan, Germany, and Italy.
1942	Dorothy clearly articulates a pacifist stance in response to WWII.		
1943	Dorothy wrestles with leaving her work. Takes a leave of absence for six months. Lives in St. Bernadette, near Tamar's school.  Dorothy begins work on a biography of Peter Maurin.	Pope Pius XII issues <i>Mystici Corporis Christi</i> (Mystical Body of Christ) which helps to pave the way for the Second Vatican Council.	

1944	Tamar marries David Hennessy. (Together they have nine children listed here in the order of their birth: Rebecca, Susanna (deceased), Eric, Nicholas (deceased), Mary, Margaret, Martha, Hilaire, Catherine.)			“Percentages agreement” is made between Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.
1945	October - Grace Satterlee, Dorothy’s mother, dies.			End of WWII. United Nations formed. Harry Truman begins serving as president of U.S. July – Bomb called “Trinity” tested in Los Alamos, NM. August 6 and 9 - Atomic bombs dropped on Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
1946	Dorothy changes name of her column to “On Pilgrimage.”			
1947		Easton Farm closes. Workers purchase new farm in Newburgh, NY.		Harry Truman articulates Truman Doctrine. Congress passes National Security Act. India wins freedom to be self-governing under the leadership of Gandhi.
1948	<i>Dorothy publishes On Pilgrimage</i> in book form. Dorothy takes long break from CW. Stays with Tamar and David in their home in Berkeley, West Virginia.			U.N. Declaration of Human Rights is adopted.
1949	Dorothy meets Quaker artist Fritz Eichenberg at Pendle Hill. During the same year a small union of grave-diggers goes on strike against the Archdiocese of New York and the Catholic Workers support the grave diggers.	Peter Maurin dies on May 15.	Cardinal Francis Spellman of the Archdiocese of New York tells the press that the grave-diggers are under Communist influence.	NATO forms. China officially becomes a Communist country.
1950	Dorothy travels to D.C. for a week-long fast for peace.	In the summer, the Catholic Worker is evicted from its Mott Street address. CW was dispossessed when the building was sold. They moved directly into a house at 221 Chrystie Street.		Congress passes McCarran Internal Security Act. U.S. backs South Korea against North Korea in Korean Civil War.

1951		Monsignor Edward Gaffney tells Day that the Workers should no longer use the term "Catholic" in the title of their paper.	
1952	<i>The Long Loneliness</i> is published.		U.S. develops first hydrogen bomb.
1953			Dwight Eisenhower begins serving as president of U.S. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are executed in Sing Sing prison. Korean War ends.
1954			Supreme Court Decision in Brown vs. Board of Education that abolishes segregation in public schools.
1955	Dorothy is arrested along with Ammon Hennacy, A. J. Muste, and others for refusing to participate in civil defense drills that are being required by the city of New York. Their resistance to this policy ended in 1961.		Rosa Parks is arrested in Montgomery, Alabama on December 1 for refusing to give up her seat and move to the back of a bus.
1957	Dorothy visits Koinonia Farm in Georgia. While there, Dorothy takes a turn keeping watch at the entrance of the farm.		
1958		The Catholic Workers are forced to give up their Chrystie Street house. The community moves to 39 Spring Street.	Pope John XXIII begins serving (pope from 1958-1963)
1959	Forster asks Dorothy to care for Nanette, his common law wife.		Fidel Castro overthrows government of Fulgencio Batista.
1960	<i>Therese</i> is published.		
1961		The Catholic Worker moves to 175 Chrystie Street.	John F. Kennedy begins serving as president of U.S. Berlin Wall is built in this year.

1962	Dorothy travels to Cuba. Her experience in Cuba becomes the subject of a series of articles in the <i>Catholic Worker</i> paper.		Pope John XXIII convenes Vatican II in Rome with his "Message to Humanity."	The Cuban Missile Crisis (October 14-28).
1963	During this year, Dorothy joins a group of fifty women who identify themselves as "Women for Peace" on a pilgrimage to Rome, visits England for a conference at a Dominican retreat House, and publishes <i>Loaves and Fishes</i> .		Pope John XXIII publishes the encyclical <i>Pacem in Terris</i> (Peace on Earth). Pope Paul VI begins serving later that year (pope from 1963-1978).	John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas (November 22). Lyndon B. Johnson begins serving as president of U.S.
1965	<i>The Catholic Worker</i> paper runs July-August special issue on "War and Peace at the Vatican Council." Dorothy travels in September with Eileen Egan and 18 other Catholics to Rome for the final session of the Second Vatican Council.	The Catholic Worker, in collaboration with the Fellowship of Reconciliation, establishes the Catholic Peace Fellowship during this year. CW Roger LaPorte attempts self-immolation as a demonstration against the Vietnam War.	Final session of Second Vatican Council.	U.S. escalates involvement in the Vietnam War.
1967	Dorothy travels to Rome for International Congress of the Laity. Receives communion from the pope.			
1968		The Catholic Worker moves to 36 East First Street. Thomas Merton dies.	Pope Paul VI encyclical on <i>Humanae Vitae</i> (Of Human Life).	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee (April 4). Robert Kennedy is assassinated in Los Angeles, California (June 6).
1969	Dorothy makes an initial trip to the headquarters of the United Farm Workers in Delano, California. This visit initiates long-term collaboration in support of the farm workers between Day and Cesar Chavez.			Richard Nixon begins serving as president of U.S.
1970	Dorothy travels with Eileen Egan to Australia, Hong Kong, India, Tanzania, Rome, and England. In Calcutta she meets Mother Teresa. Mother Teresa recognizes Dorothy as an honorary member of her religious order.			

1971	Dorothy travels with friends to Russia and throughout parts of Central and Eastern Europe.		
1972	Dorothy's 75th birthday. University of Notre Dame honors her with the Laetare Medal for outstanding service to the Roman Catholic Church and society.		
1973	In August, Dorothy is arrested for the last time for participating in protests with United Farm Workers. She spends nearly two weeks at a prison farm in California. Later that same year, Dorothy is invited to address the newly formed Catholic pacifist organization Pax Christi USA at its assembly in D.C.		Paris Peace Accord is signed which brought an official end to the Vietnam War.  Supreme Court decision on Roe vs. Wade.
1974	Early in the year, Dorothy is awarded the Isaac Hecker Award from the Paulists.	The Catholic Worker purchases Maryhouse at 55 East Third Street.	Gerald Ford begins serving as president of U.S.
1975	Robert Ellsberg makes his way to the Catholic Worker house. Becomes editor of the Catholic Worker paper and then later becomes the Executive Editor of Orbis Books.		U.S. withdraws from Vietnam.
1976		Maryhouse opens.	
1977	Dorothy receives birthday greetings from Pope Paul VI on her 80th birthday.		Jimmy Carter begins serving as president of U.S.
1978			Pope John Paul I begins serving in August 1978 (pope until September). Pope John Paul II begins serving in October (pope until 2005).
1979		Mother Teresa visits Maryhouse.	Bishops' conference in Mexico officially declares the Latin American Church's "preferential option for the poor".
1980	Dorothy dies in her room in Maryhouse on November 29.		Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue Between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church first meets in Rhodes, Greece.



2000		Roman Catholic Church officially began the process of canonization for Dorothy.
2004	Dorothy's book <i>Peter Maurin: Apostle to the World</i> was edited by Francis Sicius and published.	
2005		Pope Benedict XVI (2005-2013)
2008	Dorothy Day's diaries were edited by Robert Ellsberg and published.	

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