THE HUMANITY OF SERVICE

Portraits by Michael Collopy

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
CANIZARO LIBRARY
SEPTEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 16, 2016
MICHAEL COLLOPY

Michael Collopy is one of the preeminent portrait photographers of our time and has gained worldwide recognition for his commissioned portraits of hundreds of public figures. His portfolio includes a vast array of portraits from world leaders such as Pope John Paul II, Mikhail Gorbachev and 5 U.S. Presidents, to entertainers like Paul McCartney, George Clooney, Salma Hayek and Bono. Collopy also worked with Frank Sinatra for many years. Collopy’s photographs have been published worldwide in numerous books, magazines and newspapers, as well as on the cover of many record and CD covers.

A San Francisco native, Collopy is the son of internationally acclaimed graphic artist George Collopy. He is a self-taught photographer whose enthusiasm for the arts led him to meet and spend time with such luminaries as Ansel Adams and Richard Avedon, who offered Michael their artistic advice and encouraged him to pursue a professional career in photography. Collopy’s range of clients have brought him around the globe, from photographing Mother Teresa’s work in Calcutta to Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Tutu along with Mikhail Gorbachev’s Nobel Peace summit in Italy or photographing the Rolling Stones in France.

In 1996, Collopy released “Works of Love are Works of Peace,” with the cooperation of Mother Teresa. This critically acclaimed 15-year photo documentary profiled the work of her Missionaries of Charity. It won many International-printing awards and was chosen as one of the top coffee table books of 1996 by USA Today. In the fall of 2001 Collopy released his second book, “Architects of Peace”. Inspired by children rights activist Marian Wright Edelman, Michael photographed 75 of the world’s greatest peacemakers and influential figures and asked each one to write a personal statement on the issue of peace.

After the tragedy of 9/11, Collopy was influential in creating a website profiling the living Nobel Peace laureates’ reaction entitled: “The Peacemakers Speak,” which was awarded one of the top sites of the year by USA Today. The Architects of Peace project is permanently exhibited at The National Civil Rights Museum, The Hoover Institute at Stanford University, Marquette University, Anahuac University in Mexico City and Santa Clara University. In 2008, Collopy formed the Architects of Peace Foundation, which is involved with Peace education. He continues to photograph the world’s peacemakers.

Michael worked with legendary music mogul Quincy Jones for 9 months on his illustrated memoirs “The Complete Quincy Jones, My Life and Passions” which launched to critical acclaim. Michael Collopy is the recipient of the 2009 Martin Luther King Peace award from Stanford University, and in 2014, he received the Alumni Award for Meritorious Service from Saint Mary’s College in Moraga, Ca. In 2015, Collopy’s portrait of Nelson Mandela was painted by famed street artist Shepard Fairey on the face of a 10-story office building in downtown Johannesburg, South Africa.

In 2016, Michael’s portrait of Mother Teresa from 1983 was painted by artist Chas Fagan for the official portrait of Mother Teresa and displayed at the Vatican on the balcony of St. Peter’s basilica during her Canonization ceremony. This image will be in the chapels of the Missionaries of Charity worldwide. His color portrait of Mother Teresa from 1987 was used by the Vatican as the official sainthood stamp of Mother Teresa along with being on the cover of Time magazine for the third time in 6 years.

Learn more about
Michael Collopy’s work
michaelcollopyphotography.com
'The canonization of Mother Teresa in September 2016 once again draws the world’s attention to her lifelong commitment to others’ needs. This exhibit began with an idea to show that commitment, but evolved into the broader topic of service as an essential human quality. One of the questions Mother Teresa has repeatedly asked during her lifetime was: who was going to take care of the poor and the needy after she died? Mother Teresa’s work has deeply influenced the world, but let’s not lose sight of the many efforts made by countless others before and since. Although she is the inspiration for, and a powerful presence in, this exhibit, she is not the subject. Service to others is.

Michael Collopy has photographed numerous public figures. For his “Architects of Peace” project, some of the world’s most influential and courageous individuals who have dedicated themselves to service to others have agreed to have their portraits taken. The selection of photographs in this exhibit is not a show of top listed individuals in the area of humanitarianism, but rather a diverse mix of individuals from all corners of the world selflessly working for the benefit of humankind. From Nobel Peace Prize laureates to activists, artists to astronauts, politicians to religious leaders, many are cherished role models in their own countries, but some have been banned from their communities.

Most or all of these people were no different than you, they weren’t born powerful; they attained stature and respect and recognition - and power as a result - because of their engagement and drive to achieve their goals of service, sometimes at great personal cost. They did not give up, did not walk away. They stand out because of their strength of character, courage, and determination that we can all learn from. There are 40 different individuals in this exhibit, each with their own ideals, their own values, their own path. Who do you identify most with?

We can all choose to be of service to others. You have the power to do what Mother Teresa has done and change the world by engaging with one person, one group, one neighborhood, one community at a time. The Mother Teresa Project is just one example of how you can make a difference. The needs never stop, the work to improve humankind is forever. Service is what makes us more human.

_Maybe the next portrait will be YOURS?_