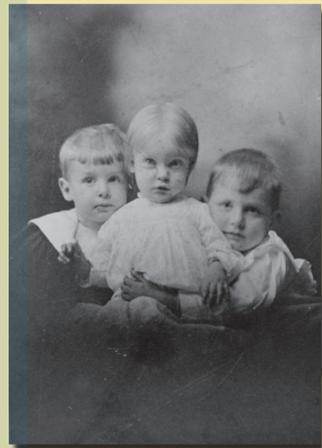


# The DOROTHY DAY EXHIBIT

*Dorothy Day*  
A Life Lived



On November 8th Dorothy Day is born in Brooklyn, New York, the third of five children.

1897



Dorothy (left) with her sister Della in Chicago, Illinois.

1906 - 1913



Walking through the slums of Chicago, Dorothy is moved by the resilience of the impoverished in their efforts to create beauty amidst squalor.

This imagery, along with her attraction to the socially conscious writings of Upton Sinclair, Jack London, Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Prince Peter Kropotkin inform her interest in the labor movement and class struggle.



At the age of 16 Dorothy enters the University of Illinois at Urbana on a scholarship.

1914

"The Marxist slogan, 'Workers of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains!' seemed to me a most stirring battle cry. It was a clarion call that made me feel one with the masses, apart from the bourgeoisie, the smug, and the satisfied."

Dorothy moves to New York City and starts her writing career on such socialist papers as *The Call* and *The Masses*. Her friends are writers Max Eastman, Floyd Dell, Mike Gold, Jack Reed and Eugene O'Neill. They spend their nights in spirited intellectual conversation at a saloon nicknamed, "The Hell Hole."



"No one ever wanted to go to bed and no one ever wished to be alone."

1916

1917

Dorothy accompanies a group picketing the White House for the rights of political prisoners. She is arrested and sentenced to 30 days in jail, where she partakes in a 10-day hunger strike. She suffers severe loneliness, finding solace in the Psalms.

"If we had faith in what we were doing, making our protest against brutality and injustice, then we were indeed casting our seeds, and there was the promise of the harvest to come."



Dorothy accepts a job at a Hollywood studio. Finding scriptwriting unfulfilling, she and Tamar move to Mexico City, eventually returning to New York.

On March 4th Tamar Teresa is born, prompting a profound spiritual transformation in Dorothy.

"If I had written the greatest book or composed the greatest symphony... I could not have felt more the exalted creator than I did when they placed my child in my arms."



Dorothy marries Berkeley Tobey—a wealthy older man, and a founder of the Literary Guild. They vacation for a year in Europe, where Dorothy writes a novel *The Eleventh Virgin*, a thinly-veiled account of a previous tumultuous relationship. The marriage ends on her return to the United States.

1920 - 1921

1922

Dorothy returns to Chicago to work for *The Liberator*, a Communist paper. While staying at an Industrial Workers of the World house for visitors, Dorothy is caught up in the Palmer Red Raids and arrested for a second time under suspicion of illegal activities.

1927

"I wanted to die in order to live, to put off the old man and put on Christ... I did not want to give up human love when it was dearest and tenderest."

Her new religious promptings begin to weigh on the relationship. Dorothy's conversion to Catholicism is the final blow, leading to a devastating breakup with Forster.

1926

1924 - 1925

"He was the very half of my being."

Hollywood options the film rights to Dorothy's novel. She uses the money to purchase a bungalow on Raritan Bay, Staten Island. Here she meets Forster Batterham—atheist, anarchist, biologist—with whom she enters into a common-law marriage.



1929 - 1932

*The Commonweal* sends Dorothy to Washington, D.C. to cover a Hunger March. Feeling on the sidelines, and torn between Catholicism and Radicalism, she enters The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and prays for a sign.

"There I offered up a special prayer, a prayer which came with tears and with anguish, that some way would open up for me to use what talents I possessed for my fellow workers, for the poor."