

*Catherine's Prayers*

# *Suscipe*

*Perhaps the best known prayer of Catherine McAuley is one she called her Suscipe or Act of Resignation.*

My God, I am yours for time and eternity.  
Teach me to cast myself entirely  
into the arms of your loving Providence  
with a lively, unlimited confidence in your compassionate, tender pity.  
Grant, O most merciful Redeemer,  
That whatever you ordain or permit may be acceptable to me.  
Take from my heart all painful anxiety;  
let nothing sadden me but sin,  
nothing delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of You  
my God and my all, in your everlasting kingdom.

Amen.

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## *Thirty Days Prayer*

*It was Catherine McAuley's custom to pray two Thirty Days' Prayers in times of need, for benefactors and co-workers and at the establishment of a new foundation. The following is an adaptation of the prayers.*

Merciful Jesus, you inspired in Catherine McAuley a lively conviction of your enduring love. In times of need she and her companions faithfully entreated your help, and they were never disappointed. In this same confident spirit we come to you now.

Because you walked among us, you know our human experience. You have shared our joys and sorrows. You have healed and comforted us, sustained and renewed us. Be with us now in this time of need. Let us experience your loving presence as you grant us this favor we ask of you:

We also ask your blessing on our living and deceased family members, our sisters in community, our associates, companions and benefactors. Show them your loving kindness.

Encouraged by your care for us, we will with lively fidelity devote ourselves to the works of mercy. Through our good works, may your people experience your unceasing care for them. We ask all this through the intercession of Mary, your mother and the mother of Mercy.

Amen.

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# *Morning Consecration*

O compassionate Jesus,  
look on me today with tenderness  
and give me the grace to walk on the path of mercy  
marked out for those who follow you.  
May all I do today reflect your merciful love.

Amen.

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## *Act of Consecration*

God of my heart, my whole desire is in loving you. I give myself to you without reserve.

I consecrate to you my heart. Receive it as an offering of love and unite it to your heart. I desire to dwell with you all my days.

I consecrate to you my will. May it be joined to yours in all things. May my deepest desire be to do what is pleasing to you. May your Spirit guide me in the way of obedience and may selfish desires not find a home in me.

I consecrate to you my understanding. May I see with your eyes and choose what is life-giving. May I forego all that is false and passing that I may embrace what is true and enduring. Let me desire the good and all that brings the good to birth. May your grace bring my desire to realization.

I consecrate to you my memory. Let me always remember your goodness and beauty. I shall take delight in remembering your favors - the love and mercy you have shown to me. May my heart be forever grateful.

I consecrate to you my body. Make me a worthy dwelling for your Spirit, Jesus. I give you all that I am and I accept whatever limitations, sickness, sorrows and death will be mine. Let me desire what you desire. No matter how painful the cross that is mine to carry, I receive it with confidence in your strength and grace. May I accept it with lively gratitude and carry it with joy and constancy. May the words of St. Paul strengthen me; "With Christ I am nailed to the cross."

I consecrate to you all that I may ever possess in goods, influence or status. All is yours. Do with me what you will. I consecrate to you all that I can - joys, sorrows, life and death - to offer you my love and to witness to others the joy of loving you. May I serve you with devotion, relying on the help of your grace. May I be yours without reserve until the last moment of my life.

Amen.

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# *Prayer for a Person Critically Ill*

Healing God, give strength and courage to \_\_\_\_\_ as she/he patiently endures the suffering and pain of her/his illness.

Take from her/his heart all painful anxiety. Help her/him to place her/himself in the arms of your loving providence, trusting in your compassionate, tender love.

Blessed Mary and all the saints, gather round us as we pray for our sister/brother. May we reach out to her/him with compassion and support, bringing her/him comfort. Through your intercession may we all look forward to being united with you in God's presence.

Amen.

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# *Prayer Before Meditation*

Come, Holy Spirit, dwell in our hearts and kindle in them the fire of your divine love.

O eternal God, grant to us, we beseech you, the fullness of your divine Spirit and give us openness to the inspirations of your grace. Help us to put aside every thought and concern that may distract us from your holy presence. Through the life and death of Jesus Christ and through the intercession of Mary and all the saints, we sincerely ask that this prayer may glorify you and bring us to salvation.

Amen.

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# *Prayer for the Beatification of Catherine McAuley*

*If you wish to join the Sisters of Mercy, their Associates, Companions and friends in praying for the Beatification of Catherine McAuley, we offer you this prayer.*

Loving God, you chose Catherine McAuley for the service of your people who are poor, sick and uneducated. You inspired her to found the Sisters of Mercy that these good works might endure. Give to each of us a portion of her compassionate spirit and ardent desire to serve your suffering people.

Bless all our undertakings and grant that union and charity may always thrive among us. Graciously hear our prayer for Catherine, and by granting the favors we ask through her intercession, hasten the day when her sanctity will be celebrated by all the church.

Amen.