



Foundation Day Prayer

DECEMBER 12, 2017



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Introduction

Leader: God of our past, our present and our future,

All: You are the One from whom we come and the One to whom we go.

Leader: Be with us as we gather in the name of Jesus, our way, our truth and our life.

All: Join with us as we celebrate the Foundation Day of our common call to Mercy and our shared mission of Mercy.

Reading

On December 12, 1831, in the little chapel in George's Hill, Dublin, Catherine and her two young friends, Anna Maria Doyle and Elizabeth Harley, committed themselves to live their lives dedicated to God. They pronounced their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and their commitment to work for the poor, sick and uneducated. Catherine's heart was racing as Archbishop Murray spoke words of encouragement from the altar, not with fear but with excitement and a great joy. There was a new song in her heart, a song which now said "My God, I Am Yours for Time and Eternity."



Something wonderful took place on that cold December day of 1831 which was to bring the fire and warmth of God's love into the lives of millions all over the world. The Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy was born. Catherine McAuley, daughter of Elinor and James and heiress of Coolock House, was generous and daring enough to allow it all to happen.

Today the spirit of this beautiful "Woman of Mercy" lives on in the lives of thousands of Sisters and Associates [and Companions] all over the world, who continue the work that began in the heart of a young Dublin girl who loved God, the poor, and was daring to be different.

—Anne Ried, *Daring to be Different: The Life of Catherine Elizabeth McAuley*

Antiphon

Antiphon

Let us dare to say and to be Mercy.

SIDE 1

If we utter the word mercy,
standing, each of us, by an open window
anywhere we are in the world,
then the word mercy will carry on the soundwaves
onwards and unceasing,
through the air of the wounded world.

SIDE 2

And maybe, when it takes flight
into deed and kindness, justice and effort,
it will effect a healing, a hope and a blessing.

SIDE 1

It may call the homeless home,
it may coax to hope the betrayed and broken,
it may ease the burdened earth.

SIDE 2

Listen for it, the repeated word mercy.
Listen for its neighborly dialects and global idiom.
Imagine those who, like you, are saying it aloud,
and those who need to hear it, today—the word—mercy.
One word, one deed of justice,
one kind effort at a time.

ALL

Creator God, sustainer of life,
Jesus, our companion Word,
Spirit, who, like the air, inspires,
give us the simple daring this day
to say and to be Mercy.

—*Mary Wickham, RSM*

Antiphon

Let us dare to say and be Mercy.



Song: Woman's Song of God

Pour out compassion and mercy
From the depths of your heart.
And give to the poor and the broken
The service of your love.

In so far as you do these holy things
With all the love of your soul
Then you will resemble me, your God.
And I will make you whole.

If we seek out and find the stranger
Comfort the lowly of heart
And offer them your friendship
And my justice you impart.

So pour out your compassion and mercy
From the depths of your heart...

Pause for reflection

How is God inviting me to dare, to risk, to say and to be Mercy today?

In the light of Catherine's daring, in the light of our Chapter 2017 Recommitment, how is God inviting us to dare, to risk, to say and to be Mercy today?

(Pause for sharing.)

Closing Song or Prayer: Suscipe

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

Prepared by the Mid-Atlantic Community Spiritual Life Committee, specifically Sister Mary Anne Nolan.