

Mercy

Introductory Prayer



Catherine McAuley describes Mercy as "... the principal path of Jesus Christ to those desirous to follow him." Looking to the life of Jesus, Catherine McAuley learned the meaning of mercy as openness to the suffering of others and a willingness to walk with them. She went out to those made poor, the lonely, the sick, the uneducated, the women at risk, the homeless. Wherever the need called, Catherine responded with a compassionate and merciful heart. Today let us pray and reflect for ourselves as Mercy leaders.

Scripture: Matthew 18:18-20

Truly, I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I truly tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Intercessions

God of light and love, lift from our hearts any cloud of uncertainty. Fix our eyes upon Jesus that we may choose to live a life of compassion and Mercy. We come to you asking that you transform us and our world.

Give us listening ears:

Teach us to hold sacred each person's story, each person's dream.

Give us compassionate hearts:

Use our hand to ease the pain of others.

Give us vision to see the invisible poor among us:

Help us never to be blind to another's needs.

Give us fluent tongues to name injustice:

Strengthen us to speak the challenging message of the gospel.

Give us energy to not grow weary of doing good:

Accept our lives, given in service of your people.

(Adapted from Sisters of Mercy Prayer Book)

Reflection Questions and Small Group Discussion

Where have you practiced mercy in your leadership ?

Take a moment to consider how you can be a more merciful leader.

Closing Prayer

Spirit of God, come and transform us. Stir up in us an ardent desire to do your will and bring about the reign of mercy and justice. Holy Spirit, praying unceasingly within us, give our tongue the words to praise you, our hearts the fever to love you. Sanctify the works of our lives as Mercy leaders that all our acts may give glory to God, today and always. Abide with us that we may abide with you. This we ask in faith. Amen.

Sources

Be as Shining Lamps, p 51

Intercessions of Mercy