

Compelled By Mercy



The Charism of Mercy

Opening Reflection

“Catherine McAuley could have been insulated and isolated against the miserable poverty of Dublin. Instead she recognized the call of the Spirit, and accepted it with a grateful love and a willingness to put it at the service of others. As recipient of God’s mercy, she saw herself as steward. Gifts given were gifts for others. Direct and practical in her response, she went out into gutter and garret to teach, to soothe and to shelter. She had discovered that her charism, her gift for others, was mercy, a charism to the cutting edge of brokenness or imbalance.

Giving outward expression to this inner grace, with a singularly keen eye for the special needs of her time and an astute perception of the methods by which they could be successfully met, she quickly attracted others drawn by a similar call to respond to the action of God in their lives.”

Tender Courage, Joanna Regan and Isabelle Keiss

Reflection/Sharing

- ❖ With the clear Mercy vision of Catherine, what cries out for attention in your particular context?
- ❖ How should you translate the Mercy charism into today’s realities, challenges and possibilities?
- ❖ What aspects of the Mercy charism would you preserve at all costs?

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:1-6

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Blessing

“May the love of God enfold us and support us. May our blessing be to hear Mercy purely, to know and speak it clearly, to show and receive it lovingly, and to become, each day, more truly Mercy.”

Amen.

Mary Wickham, RSM