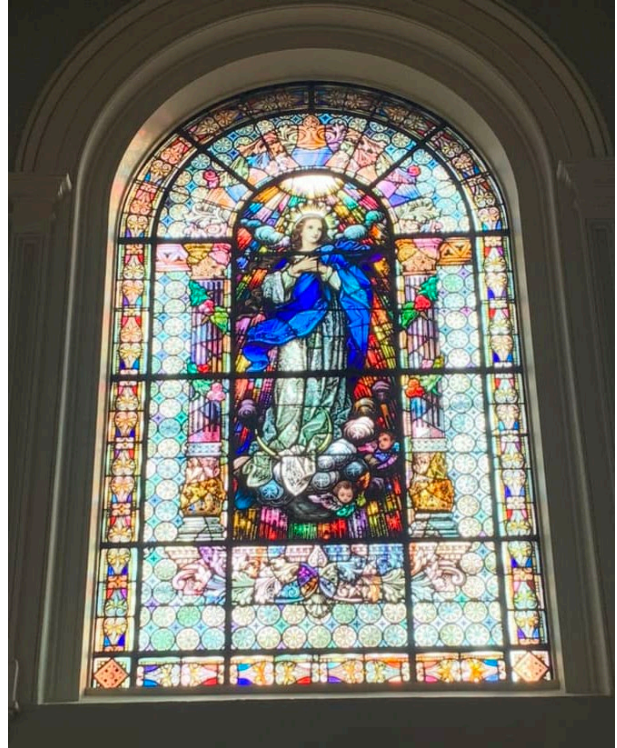


Humility in Leadership

Introduction Prayer

“As it (House of Mercy) grew in strength, defenders and patrons of the Sisters of Charity and the Sisters of the Presentation, seeing the House of Mercy as a threat, pounced upon the new rival as unauthorized, unorthodox, and officially unrecognized by the Roman Catholic Church. Their criticisms reached a climax the day the chapel was dedicated and the archbishop not only permitted it to be open for public Masses but also permitted all money collected at Masses said there to be used to support its work of charity. Antagonism became explicit....Archbishop Murray was distressed that he was thought not to have given enough attention to what had been developing at Baggot Street....One of the priests present was prompted to call on Miss McAuley...and state that the archbishop desired her to hand over her property to the Sisters of Charity who would conduct a legitimate work of the Church....Catherine immediately wrote to Archbishop Murray, assuring him that the house was his to dispose of, but requesting that she might continue to live at Baggot Street.Her letter brought a mystified Archbishop Murray to her door...he had no desire for her good works to cease nor for her to vacate the property...Feeling pressured by his clergy, the archbishop was distant, reserved, and defensive about his position as responsible for religious groups within the diocese, insisting that they either behave as ladies of their station...or assume the duties and obligations of formal religious life. The archbishop left Catherine with a difficult decision.” (From *Tender Courage* p. 32-33)



Stained glass window in the chapel at Mercy International Centre, Dublin, Ireland

Scripture

From John 13:16-17

Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

From Philippians 2: 3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

General Intercessions

Christ, you came not only as an earthly ruler but as a humble servant. You lived by your own declaration that you had come to serve, not be served. With chastened hearts we pray:

- ∞ For the inner freedom to live in a simple and unencumbered manner, we pray...
Help us to follow your example.
- ∞ For the courage to speak our convictions honestly yet kindly, we pray...
Help us to follow your example.
- ∞ For the vision to seek the common good, we pray...
Help us to follow your example.
- ∞ For the determination to act on behalf of those who are powerless, we pray...
Help us to follow your example.
- ∞ For the wisdom to realize that small actions matter, we pray...
Help us to follow your example.
- ∞ For the peace that comes from following you, we pray...
Help us to follow your example.

(Intercessions of Mercy, p. 104)

Reflection:

“We, like Catherine, are called to be humble leaders who practice kindness in the everyday.”

- ∞ When do you show kindness in your leadership?
- ∞ How are you a servant leader?
- ∞ What does humility look like in your leadership?

(Be As Shining Lamps, p. 51-52)

Closing Prayer

May the courage of our Mercy tradition embolden us to seek ways to strengthen our faith and love. And may the dedication and humble service of Catherine McAuley inspire us in all that we do.

(Be As Shining Lamps, excerpt p. 74)