

# MERCY AROUND THE WORLD



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS WITH PERMISSION

1. *Mercy Seed ...* (Words and Music by Elizabeth Drouin, associate member of US from The Circle of Mercy Songs of the Sisters of Mercy)
2. *Song: In Mercy we touch the hearts ...* (Words and Music by Sister Jeannette Gogliasm from Circle of Mercy Songs of the Sisters of Mercy)
3. Reading from Mary C Sullivan, "Welcoming the Stranger: The Kenosis of Catherine McAuley," *Journal of the Mercy Association in Scripture and Theology [MAST]*, 6.3 (1996): 11 -17
4. *Paintings by Sister Anne Reddington rsm*

# OUR GLOBAL REALITY

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### OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Come to us today, O God.  
All: Come to us with light.  
(A candle is lit and is placed centrally)

Leader: Speak to us today, O God.  
All: Speak to us your truth.  
(Bible is placed centrally)

Leader: Live in us today, O God.  
All: Live in us your vision.  
(MIA Visioning Statement is placed centrally)

**Reflective music is played while the focus is encircled**

**The Seeds of Mercy are scattered as we sing:**

### **MERCY SEED** (CIRCLE OF MERCY TRACK 1)

Back in Dublin's fair city, many long years ago,  
a little seed was planted and it began to grow,  
and the sower's name was Catherine,  
and deep love was in her heart,  
for here in this fine land,  
the dream of Mercy she did start.

Well, she had a fine fortune,  
but instead gave to those in need,  
for mercy was her mission  
and mercy was the seed.  
And like a tree that grows so tall  
her vision came to be,  
in caring for the needs of all  
with deep integrity.

### **CIRCLE OF MERCY** (CIRCLE OF MERCY - TRACK 14)

In Mercy, we touch the hearts of those  
who are in misery,  
In Mercy, we're touched by them  
and feel their strength and courage,  
In Mercy, we heal the pain of those who are in sorrow,  
In Mercy, we're healed by them and see the face of hope.

#### **Chorus:**

*For the circle of Mercy is timeless,  
it is Spirit of Life itself,  
which roots us in faith  
and lifts us in hope,  
and holds us in God's loving care,  
and holds us in God's loving care.*

In Mercy, we welcome those  
the world has left rejected,  
In Mercy, we're drawn within  
the loving heart of God,  
In Mercy, we forgive the incompleteness in another,  
In Mercy, our sins are healed and we are whole again.

#### **Chorus:**

In Mercy, the Spirit-Faith will root us  
in God's presence,  
In Mercy, the Spirit-Hope will lift us out of doubt,  
In Mercy, the love of God will be our joy in living,  
In Mercy, we join with one another on our journey.

#### **Chorus:**

## ***INTERCESSIONS***

**Leader:** We share Catherine's confidence in the mercy of God as we pray for our sisters, co-workers, associates, benefactors, friends and all we serve throughout the world.

To the person who is poor and does not have the minimum food to live,

**R/ : *Let us be witnesses to your mercy in this present age***

To the children and young people who are in our schools, **R/:**

To teachers and mentors, **R/:**

To those who are ill and those who care for them, **R/:**

To mothers-to-be and those who guide them, **R/:**

To those in prison and those who minister to them, **R/:**

To the homeless and dispossessed, **R/:**

To the dying and those who support them, **R/:**

To those seeking to deepen their faith and young people looking for a direction in their lives, **R/:**

To those in leadership roles in the Church, our Congregations and in Government, **R/:**

To those seeking to spread Mercy around the world, **R/:**

To those in the north and south, the east and west, **R/:**

***PAUSE ...***

*We pray together the Lord's Prayer: **Our Father ...***

Her labours they were many,  
but she took them all in stride,  
with her faithful devotion  
she kept God by her side.  
and then other women followed  
and from her vision they took heed,  
for they saw the gift of Mercy,  
for Mercy was the seed.

Words of the Gospels  
and the lessons on the pages  
helped to tend that seedling  
to flourish throughout the ages.  
In poverty and sickness  
Catherine met them face to face  
within herself and all the people  
that her mission did embrace.

And now the seed that Catherine sowed  
has thrived throughout the years.  
It grows within our works,  
our courage and our fears.  
Though once a seed her dream now stands  
as a solid tree.  
Its branches are the symbol  
that we are all a family.

And though the mighty winds will pass  
our tree can never fall,  
for we all are rooted deeply  
in the echo of Catherine's call.  
So remember from that seedling  
you're a branch on this great tree.  
And our spirit, it has blossomed  
into global unity.

**ANTIPHON:** *Happy those who love God*

Happy those who love God  
and delight in the law.  
Their children shall be blest,  
strong and upright in the land.

**R/:** *Happy those who love God*

Their households thrive,  
their integrity stands firm.  
A light shines on them in darkness,  
a God of mercy and justice. **R/**

The good lend freely  
and deal fairly,  
they will never stumble;  
their justice shall be remembered. **R/**

Bad news holds no power,  
strong hearts trust God.  
Steady and fearless,  
they look down on their enemy. **R/**

They support the poor,  
their integrity stands firm,  
their strength brings them honour.

**ANTIPHON:** *Happy those who love God*

**PowerPoint presentation of Our Mercy Global Reality during the reading ...**

**CATHERINE'S EMBRACE OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

"If I were to summarize in the broadest terms Catherine McAuley's embrace of cultural diversity and her legacy of hospitality to strangers, I would have to say that:

- She did not narrowly define the love of God or the unity to which we and our neighbours in the world are called.
- She did not misname differences or see cultural variations as obstacles to that unity.
- She did not use adversarial language to describe these differences.
- She did not cling to her own distinctiveness or to her own personal preferences or non-essential customs.
- And she did not regard her friendship with God as something to be coveted or exploited for herself alone.

**RATHER:**

- ◆ She emptied herself of the comfort of her former way of life.
- ◆ She took the form of a servant in her human context.
- ◆ She extended her affectionate embrace to otherness.
- ◆ She opened her door to strangers.
- ◆ She welcomed them.
- ◆ She learned from those who were different and left them whole in their Godly difference.
- ◆ She humbled herself before all human forms.
- ◆ And she followed, as best she could, the example of Christ, who became obedient to God's wide and merciful love of all humankind, even to the point of death, even death on a cross.

If we wish to sow the seeds of real hope in our world, I think Catherine McAuley would say: This is the way we must do it — one person at a time: one answering of the figurative doorbell, one opening of the figurative door, one embrace of the stranger, one welcoming of the other, one sharing of our bread and milk — one person at a time."

**PAUSE ...**