Anniversaries invite us to remember that first spark of energy...that first love...that commitment that gave birth to a dream. I am sure that Catherine McAuley never imagined that in 2014, thousands of Mercy women and men across the globe would be remembering her and our treasured home at Baggot Street.

In truth, as we celebrate this 20th anniversary of the refurbishing and rededication of Mercy International Centre, we remember Catherine. We remember that Catherine used the fullness of her resources -- her providential faith in the God of mercy, her financial inheritance, her connections of friendships and colleagues, her own untiring efforts --to be Mercy for those most in need in her time...the women and children of Dublin.

Today, the invitation is ours: to use the fullness of our resources to respond to the dire needs of women and children across our globe. Mercy International Centre is the wellspring of our desires, a source of renewal for enlivening our energies and a venue for collective Merciful action across our globe. Mercy International Centre links us to one another as one Mercy family in recommitting ourselves to be Mercy for our world.

On behalf of the Mercy International Association Board, Happy anniversary!

Patricia McDermott rsm Chair, MIA Board

24 September, 2014