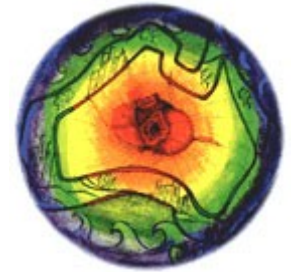


PRAYER RITUAL: THEME:

“FOR ALL THERE HAS BEEN, THANKS! FOR ALL THERE WILL BE, YES!”

SEPTEMBER 29, 2014



LEADER: Let us begin our celebration in gratitude for the gift of our mercy vocation and mission as consecrated women of mercy in union with our lay mission partners and associates who have actively responded to the call to service in mercy in all our ministries and in solidarity with all the victims of natural calamities, war, violence, poverty and injustice.

OPENING SONG: *(Everybody is invited to stand)*

AS WE GATHER

(Tom Coomes and Mike Fay)

As we gather may your spirit work within us
As we gather may we glorify your name.
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship
We'll be blessed because we came.
We'll be blessed because we came.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning
Great is Thy faithfulness O Lord,
Great is Thy faithfulness.

(Repeat 1st Paragraph)

INTRODUCTION:

(While everybody is seated a representative from the Philippines will read the Introduction)

We are indeed blessed to have come together in prayer to thank God for allowing us to witness and be part of this 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Mercy International Association. We call to mind the significant events that brought us together giving us the energy that bonded us as consecrated religious. We stir our hearts to keep aflame our aspirations and our dreams with a firm grip of opportunities for growth and development.

GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

(Don Moen and Mark Hayes)

God will make a way where there seems to be no way.
He works in ways we cannot see,
He will make a way for me.
He will be my guide hold me closely to His side
with love and strength for each new day,
He will make a way, He will make a way.

By a roadway in the wilderness He'll lead me.
And rivers in the desert will I see.
Heaven and earth will fade
but His Word will still remain,
He will do something new today.
(Repeat 1st paragraph)

LEADER: Catherine was assisted in her ministry by many who were animated by her vision.

ALL: May we learn from their good example how to generously respond to the needs of our time by collaborating with our Mercy Leaders worldwide including our Lay Mission Partners - our Mercy Associates, Circles of Mercy, Companions in Mercy and Youth Mercy Associates. (A representative from Aotearoa New Zealand shall place a lighted candle on top of their mandala).

LEADER: Catherine was endowed with a remarkably cheerful disposition. She was a woman of courage and of gratitude. She would constantly remind her companions that the ardour of their zeal depends on the depth of their gratitude.

ALL: May we always learn to rejoice and return thanks to God for blessing our humble efforts no matter how challenging and difficult the situation. Mindful of His encompassing love and mercy, may we learn to forgive, learn from experience and move forward with hopeful and joyful anticipation of a brighter future. (A representative from the Philippines shall place the lighted candle on top of their insignia).

LEADER: Loving God, fill us with the same spirit of mercy and love that filled the heart of Catherine and our respective local founders. Through the example of their loving kindness and compassion may we be inspired to centre our lives in you and continue to extend your merciful love to your people. May those who have taught us how to live Mercy charism strengthen us through their intercession. Give us the strength and confidence that will sustain us in our journey. May your plan come to fulfilment in us as we respond to the challenges of the third millennium. This we ask in the name of Jesus, Amen.

ALL: Amen.

As Mercy People, we enthusiastically remind ourselves of the prime reason for the existence of this House, the driving force behind the efforts undertaken in the past which we strive to keep alive as treasures. Women, men and children who have experienced mercy and compassion in whatever way needed have made this historical ground holy and inspiring.

The renovation and re-dedication of this house in 1994 re-established its original spirit. It rekindled the fire that the Venerable Catherine McAuley, whose birthday we commemorate today, had in her heart for displaced women and children.

Displacement continues to be a global experience.

Today we remember the many displaced peoples of the world

- Those killed and displaced by Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines
- Victims of war and violence in Syria, Israel, Central African Republic, Gaza, the Ukraine, South Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Nigeria and Pakistan.
- Those caught in the Mexican Drug War and the Egypt crisis and for those peoples of all countries where there is unrest or conflict.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS: (Everybody is invited to stand)

LEADER: Merciful God, you manifested the love of your people through the opening of the House of Mercy in Baggot Street through Venerable Catherine Mc Auley. We ask through her intercession as we say:

Mother Catherine, your sisters ask you to draw near to us in these days. May the legacy of your love and commitment be our treasure. May your passion for the poor be our passion. May your lives poured out in the service of your brothers and sisters be a light and witness to us.

LEADER

Mary, Mother of Mercy
 Spirit of Mercy,
 Catherine McAuley
 Spirit of Catherine
 Mary Ann Doyle
 Mary Elizabeth Harley
 Mary Angela Dunne
 Mary Frances Warde
 Mary Clare Moore
 Mary Elizabeth Moore
 Mary Teresa White
 Mary Aloysius Scott
 Mary Juliana Hardman

ALL

Pray for us
 Live in us
 Pray for us
 Animate us
 Pray for us
 Pray for us
 Pray for us
 Pray for us
 Pray for us
 Pray for us
 Pray for us

For all the holy women who were responsible for the establishment of our respective communities. (Each country representative will be asked to mention the names of the holy women who have established their respective communities according to the following sequence: Ireland, Great Britain, Americas, New Foundland, Australia & Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the Philippines)

LEADER: The needs of our people today may be different from that of Catherine's time. But the love that inspired her response can be channelled to new directions by the same generous spirit which activated her. We entrust to you the needs of our time as we fervently pray:

LEADER: Catherine's faith in God and her growing love for the Blessed Lady, led her to place the new congregation under Mary's patronage: The Institute of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy.

ALL: May we strive to live the virtues of the Blessed Virgin and inspire others to love and follow her and may we never cease to implore her assistance in all our duties. (A representative from Ireland shall place the lighted candle on top of their mandala).

LEADER: Many of Catherine's early companions later embraced the

ALL: May we continue to become an inspiration and a living witness of Catherine's ideals and spirit among young people around the world and those who have an ardent desire to be united to God and to follow the Mercy way of life. (A representative from Great Britain shall place the lighted candle on top of their mandala).

LEADER: Those who came to the House of Mercy experienced respect and mercy hospitality.

ALL: May we remain forever grateful to the establishment of the Mercy International Centre whose 20th Founding Association and become authentic witnesses to the charism of Mercy by respecting the dignity of each person who comes and creates a spirit of gracious welcome to those who need help wherever we live and serve. (A representative from the Americas shall place the lighted candle on top of their mandala).

LEADER: Like Catherine, we have established different Mercy ministries to address and respond to global and local concerns like environmental issues and displacement of families.

ALL: May we model Catherine's humble service and generosity to serve and respond to global and local needs with a life-giving spirit, enabling and challenging others to grow in justice and promote systematic change according to her ideals. (A representative from New Foundland shall place the lighted candle on top of their mandala).

LEADER: The House of Mercy was established to serve the needs of the poor, the sick and those in need of education.

ALL: May we freely and actively respond to your call to serve those in need in whatever means and capacity we can especially victims of human trafficking, natural and man-made calamities, war, violence, poverty and injustice. (A representative from Australia and Papua New Guinea shall place the lighted candle on top of their mandala).