

Many Thanks to our Musicians!

Marie Cox rsm (Northern Province, Ireland)
Úna Purcell rsm (Western Province, Ireland)

You are most warmly welcome to:

*Icon Exhibition
in the International Room (Level 1)*

*Afternoon Tea
in the Dining Room (Level -1)*



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OPENING OF DOOR OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

*Today this Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy
through which anyone who enters will experience
the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope.*

Welcome: Mary Reynolds rsm, Mercy International Association

Opening Song:

Pour Out Compassion & Mercy (by Briege O'Hare OSC)

1. Pour out compassion and mercy from the depths of your heart;
And give to the poor and the broken, the service of your love.
Ref.: In so far as you do these holy deeds,
with all the love of your soul;
Then you will resemble me, your God,
and I will make you whole.
2. If you seek out and find the stranger, and comfort the lonely of heart;
And offer them your friendship, then my justice you impart. [Ref.]
3. So pour out compassion and mercy from the depths of your heart;
And give to the poor and the broken, the service of your love. [Ref.]



Proclaiming the Jubilee Year of Mercy:

A reading from *Misericordiae Vultus* by Pope Francis:

We need to constantly contemplate the mystery of mercy.
It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it.

Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity.

Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us.

Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of ... brothers and sisters on the path of life.

Mercy: the bridge that connects God and [humankind], opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever

With sentiments of gratitude for everything the Church has received, and with a sense of responsibility for the task that lies ahead, we shall cross the threshold of the Holy Door fully confident that the strength of the Risen Lord, who constantly supports us on our pilgrim way, will sustain us. May the Holy Spirit, who guides the steps of believers ... lead the way and support the People of God so that they may contemplate the face of mercy.

Final Blessing:

An Irish Blessing

(by Roma Downey & Phil Coulter ©1999)

A Thiarna, déan trócaire;

A Thiarna, déan trócaire

A Chríost, déan trócaire;

A Chríost, déan trócaire

Déan trócaire, Déan trócaire, A Thiarna,

A Thiarna, A Thiarna, A Thiarna, déan

trócaire.

May the blessing of light be upon you, light on the outside and light on the inside. With God's sunlight shining on you, may your heart glow with warmth like a turf fire that welcomes friends and strangers alike.

May the light of the Lord shine from your eyes like a candle in the window, welcoming the weary traveller.

May the blessing of God's soft rain be on you, falling gently on your head, refreshing your soul with the sweetness of little flowers newly blooming.

May the strength of the winds of Heaven bless you, carrying the rain to wash your spirit clean, sparkling after, in the sunlight.

May the blessing of God's earth be on you and as you walk the roads, may you always have a kind word for those you meet.

May you understand the strength and power of God in a thunderstorm in winter, and the quiet beauty of creation and the calm of a summer sunset.

And may you come to realize that insignificant as you may seem in this great universe, you are an important part of God's plan.

May He watch over you and keep you safe from harm.



Intercessions

Leader: In the words of Pope Francis, 'It is time for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters.' Ready to respond to this call to mercy, we pray for the needs of our world.

Our response is: '**May we be signs of your Mercy.**'

Reader 1: Your people hunger for food and love, for education and adequate health care, for freedom and safety. Your people thirst for justice, for clean water, and so we pray...

Reader 2: Your people long to be known, they long for a homeland, for right relationships, for welcome. They long to see your face. Your people suffer from ills of body, mind and spirit. Your Earth suffers from pollution and degradation and so we pray...

Reader 3: Your people are imprisoned in unjust structures and political regimes, in dangerous relationships, in demeaning work environments. Your people seek compassion, comfort, companionship and counsel and so we pray...

Reader 4: You have called us Mercy, to be responsive to the needs of Earth and of all people and so we pray...

Members of the assembly are invited to add further prayer.

Leader:

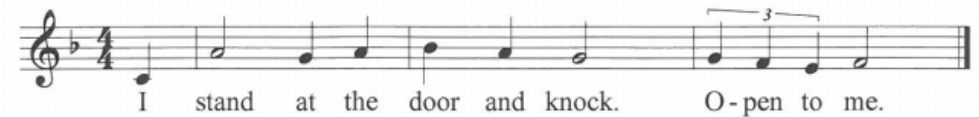
Each time we cross the threshold of this Holy Door, our God, may we be reminded that we are indeed called to the ministry of Mercy. We ask for the grace to live lives worthy of this call – to be signs, in active and practical ways, of the tender love with which you embrace us all. In this Holy Year strengthen our resolve to work for the transformation of our world to a place where all know themselves to be blessed and welcomed as you welcome us to this holy place and time. Amen.

Knocking at the Door

The knocking, sung refrain, question and response are repeated three times.

I Stand at the Door and Knock

Sheila Carney, RSM



First Knocking & Refrain

Leader: Who knocks at this Door of Mercy?

Responder: Those who suffer in our world today knock on this Door of Mercy:
The migrant, the homeless, the victims of trafficking and exploitation, those suffering because of war and natural disasters.
(Assembly names others)

Second Knocking & Refrain

Leader: Who knocks at this Door of Mercy?

Responder: The needy within our church, our congregation and our local realities knock on this Door of Mercy:
Those seeking spiritual refreshment and deeper meaning in their lives; those who feel alienated, excluded, disempowered; those who desire to embrace God's mercy and to dedicate themselves to being merciful with others.
(Assembly names others)

Third Knocking & Refrain

Leader: Who knocks at this Door of Mercy?

Responder: Our exploited Earth knocks on this Door of Mercy:
Our Earth cries out for sustainable development, action to combat climate change, commitment to protect bio-diversity and commitment to protect clean, unpolluted water sources and supply.
(Assembly names others)

Procession:

Leader: The practice of *pilgrimage* has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a *viator*, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making our way to the desired destination. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door we find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.

As the song begins, the procession leaders cross the threshold of the main door and all cross the threshold of the inner door and the Chapel door. The procession represents pilgrimage.

Circle of Mercy (by Jeannette Goglia rsm ©1991)

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.

*Ref.: 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. [Ref.]

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. [Ref.]

Partners in Mercy

On this Foundation Day of Mercy, and in imitation of Catherine McAuley, a woman who responded to God's call to reach out in compassion to those around her, especially those in need, I wish to answer God's call to me to discover and reveal the loving kindness of God in all the circumstances of my life.

**I accept the challenge to live the Gospel of Jesus
And to be a person of Mercy,
Visible in the world today.**

**Open my eyes to see the suffering
In the poor, forgotten and marginalized.**

May the God of all Mercy bless us; and may Catherine the first Sister of Mercy, accompany us and inspire us as we commit ourselves anew in mercy.

Sung Response

Suscipe of Catherine McAuley
(by Elaine Deasy rsm ©1994)



Ref: My God,
I am yours for time and eternity,
Lord, I am yours forever.
It is you who must teach me to trust in your Providence,
Loving Lord.

1. You are a God of love and tenderness.
I place my trust in you,
And I ask that you grant me acceptance of your will,
Loving Lord.
2. Take from my heart all painful anxiety.
Let nothing sadden me but sin.
And then let my delight be hoping to see your face,
God, my all. [Ref.]

Commitment to Mercy

Call: Pope Francis says that in this coming Year of Mercy, 'the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God.' You are now invited to be guardians of the Door of Mercy, keepers of the in-between place of Mercy in this coming year.

Response to each question: 'I will.'

Will you as a doorkeeper hold wide the door to invite Mercy to come in to be with us? *'I will.'*

Will you as doorkeeper hold wide the door to invite those who are hungry, thirsty, imprisoned, sick, strangers, or naked to come in to find Mercy? *'I will.'*

Will you as doorkeeper help us find new ways of being Mercy on an Earth and among a people crying out for justice? *'I will.'*

Will you as doorkeeper guide us into a holy place of contemplation and vision? *'I will.'*

And so let us renew our vows and commitments as Sisters of Mercy and Partners in Mercy.

Sisters of Mercy

**In gratitude for all that has been,
I come today to renew my religious commitment.**

**Led by the spirit, in Catherine's chapel on this our Foundation Day,
I say again that:**

**I promise to live the rest of my life in celibacy,
which involves passion and compassion in all my living.**

**I embrace poverty,
knowing the abundance of God and living with enough.**

**I renew my vow of obedience, deepening my listening and
availability to cooperate with God's mission of Mercy in our
world particularly to those most in need.**

**I do this in union with my Sisters in this Congregation of Our Lady of
Mercy. May our gracious God give me the grace to live this
commitment.**



First Reading:

A reading from *Misericordiae Vultus* by Pope Francis:

Merciful Like the Father is the 'motto' of this Holy Year. Day after day, touched by God's compassion, we also can become compassionate towards others. In this Holy Year, we look forward to the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society: fringes which modern society itself creates. How many uncertain and painful situations there are in the world today! How many are the wounds borne by the flesh of those who have no voice because their cry is muffled and drowned out by the indifference of the rich! During this Jubilee, we will be called even more to heal these wounds, to assuage them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care. Let us not fall into humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine that prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us ward off destructive cynicism! Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity! May their cry become our own, and together may we break down the barriers of indifference that too often reign.

Responsorial Psalm:

WHAT MERCY MAY YET BE

Cynthia Serjak, RSM
Text and Music
September 2003

1. What Mer-cy may yet be is held in mys-te-ry Yet we can find a
2. What Mer-cy may yet be is in us as a seed, It is our task to
5. This Year of Ju-bi-lee is call-ing us to be A wit-ness to God's

7
path that winds throughout our his-to - ry. Where Mer-cy may yet go is
till and plant to wa-ter and to weed. When Mer-cy may be strong is
mer-cy at our time in his-to - ry. May Mer-cy now a-bound where-

12
in our hearts to grow. The Liv - ing Source re -
in us as a song. We shape our part with -
ev - er we are found with joy we claim this

15
veals a course that we will come to know.
-in its art and for its time we long.
Mer - cy name, so let our thanks re - sound!

Second Reading:

A reading from *Tender Courage* by Joanna Regan rsm & Isabelle Keiss rsm

Catherine's absorption in the Word of God, written and incarnate, called her to imitate the example of Jesus in translating the love of God to others. In her experience of her own limitations, Catherine found a God of love, a hidden God, whose healing grace helped her transcend her frustrations, bitterness and weaknesses and enabled her to translate her own pain into a deep compassion for others. In this compassion, she experienced the alleviating effect created by her willing entry into the pain of others.

Catherine somehow grasped intuitively that mercy is gift given in response to need, neither earned nor deserved. She did not shrink from the demands mercy places on whoever would extend it. She knew that rendering the merciful service was not an act of beneficence, but one of gratitude to God for mercy received.

Gospel Acclamation: Pilgrim Song (by Liam Lawton ©2000)

Alle, Allelu, Alleluia (x4)

Speak, O Lord your servant here is listening.

You have the message of eternal life. (x2)

Alle, Allelu, Alleluia (x4)

Gospel:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

[25:31-40]

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by the angels, then he will take his seat on the throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.' Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, 'Lord, when did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?' And the King will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.'

The Word of God.

R: Thanks be to God.

Breaking Open the Word:

Mary Kay Dobrovolny rsm, Mercy International Association