

Closing of Mercy Pilgrimage in Rome

Introduction

We are about to complete our Mercy Year pilgrimage here in Rome. 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 we are pilgrims travelling along the road, making our way to the desired destination. May this pilgrimage be for us an impetus to conversion. Through it, may we find grace to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.

Invitation to Commitment

We gather at the painting of Our Lady of Mercy. Pope Francis entrusted the Holy year to the Mother of Mercy. Catherine McAuley opened the House on Baggot St. on 24th September and on discovering this day to be the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, called it House of Mercy and placed it under the protection of Our Lady of Mercy. As the Congregation developed, Catherine said that the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy were the business of our lives. As a sign of approval and benediction of the new congregation, Pope Leo XIII sent his blessing and a reproduction of this painting here in the church of Saint Pudenziana to Baggot Street, where it now hangs in our chapel.

This, therefore, is a moment for us to commit again to our life in Mercy and to the commitment symbolised in this pilgrimage and the entering through the Holy Door.

You are now invited to be guardians of the Door of Mercy and so:

Will you as a doorkeeper hold wide the door to invite Mercy to come in and be with us?

I will

Will you as doorkeeper hold wide the door to invite those that 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 the 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 declare our Commitment:

Gathered here, under the protection of Mary, Mother of Mercy and in imitation of Catherine McAuley, a woman who responded to God's call to reach out in compassion to 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 Mercy bless us, may Mary, the Mother of Mercy be our inspiration and may Catherine McAuley, a woman of Mercy, accompany us as we commit ourselves anew in Mercy

Suscipe:

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.

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.

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.

Let us finish with our invocation to Our Mother of Mercy:

Spanish. Ave sagrada Salve Reina, reina, Madre de Misericordia, nuestra vida, nuestra dulzura y nuestra esperanza. Te llore, pobres desterrados hijos de Eva: te enviamos a nuestros suspiros, llorando y llorando en este valle de lágrimas. Gire entonces, defensor Clemente, tus ojos de misericordia hacia nosotros y después de esto nuestro exilio, mostrar a nosotros el bendito fruto de tu vientre, Jesús. Oh Clemente, O amor, Oh dulce Virgen María! Amén.

English: Hail Holy Queen Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.

Irish Blessing:

May the road rise to meet you; May the wind always be at your back;

May the sun always be warm upon your face; and rain fall soft upon your fields

And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.