

# YOUNG MERCY LEADERS - OPENING RITUAL 2017



## FÁILTE GO HÉIRTINN - WELCOME TO IRELAND

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## OPENING HYMN - WALK BESIDE ME

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A child begins with one single step, then walks a million miles  
And though these wings are not ready yet, I will try to fly.  
My eyes can't see, my arms can't reach,  
I need strength when I'm weak, I need your faith in me

**Refrain:** Don't walk in front of me, I was not born to follow  
Don't walk behind me, We were all born to lead  
Don't walk without me, I might need you tomorrow  
Walk right beside me, Be the real friend I need

If you bring small stones, one at a time,  
you will move that whole mountain  
If you climb each rainbow, its gold that you'll find,  
and shelter from the rain  
My ears can't hear, my heart can't beat,  
I need strength when I'm weak, I need your faith in me. **Refrain**

## PLACING OF THE STONES

Participants will be invited to place their stones in the sacred space.

## GOSPEL READING Luke 10:25-37

## RESPONSE: POUR OUT COMPASSION AND MERCY

Briege O'Hare © 2001, Hermitage Productions.

Pour out compassion and mercy from the depths of your heart;  
And give to the poor and the broken, the service of your love.

**Refrain:** 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.

If you seek out and find the stranger, and comfort the lonely of  
heart; and offer them your friendship, then my justice you impart.

**Refrain**

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. **Refrain**

## UNIVERSAL PRAYER: CATHERINE WELCOMES YOU HOME

190 years ago, on the 24th September 1827, this House of Mercy was opened. A house that provided care for those in need and an opportunity for women to live out their call to follow Christ through the path of Mercy. From this house Sisters then travelled to the ends of the earth to meet the people of God, to serve wherever they were called, and to encourage others to follow the path of Mercy. Today there are over 7000 Sisters of Mercy, thousands and thousands of young people in Mercy schools and adults working with and in mercy organisations throughout the world.

We pray for Pope Francis and all leaders in our Church who show us by their words and deeds how to be more merciful. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

Catherine McAuley was grateful to her many benefactors, in particular her adoptive parents, William and Catherine Callaghan whose legacy made the building of this house possible. We pray for the members of our families and all our benefactors who have supported us in coming on this pilgrimage. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We remember that education was part of the ministry of this House from the beginning as we pray for the staff and students in our Mercy schools. May we take our learning from this week back to them so that they too are enriched by our presence here. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray that nations torn by racial and ethnic animosities, by class or religious prejudices, will find a way to embrace peace with justice. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

There were once windows in this Chapel to the left of the altar that opened into the infirmary so that those who were sick could hear the prayers of those in the Chapel. We pray for the sick, and all those who have asked for our prayers that they may be comforted knowing that they are held in prayer in their time of need. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

We know that Catherine and 49 Sisters are buried here. We pray eternal rest for all who have died and particularly that those who die this day may meet their God with joy. Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

## CLOSING HYMN: IRISH BLESSING

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.

## Reflection

A Thiarna, A Thiarna,  
A Thiarna déan trócaire.