

## NOVENA FOR SEPTEMBER 24

### Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

#### Let us pray:

Mary, Mother of Mercy  
over these nine days,  
as we prepare to celebrate  
your inspiration in our lives,  
we ask you to pray with us  
that God's own Spirit  
will animate us anew  
with those precious gifts of soul  
we see reflected  
in your womanhood.  
Amen



### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

#### Today we ask for **FAITH**

May we be blessed with the graces on which it thrives:

- ☞ freedom of heart to live without the consolation of certainty;
- ☞ humility to seek God's truth, knowing that it is always vaster and more compelling than ours;
- ☞ belief in Jesus whose life and mission remind us that our humanity originates in the very heart of God.

*Our gift as Sisters of Mercy  
is to know God's loving kindness  
and to share it with others.*

*Our name reminds us  
that God can be mercy for others through us  
only when we open ourselves  
to receive God's mercy.*

*Because of our own frailty,  
we can have confidence,  
since God's realm belongs to those who are poor [Lk 6:20].*

*In Christ Jesus we see  
our humanness and God's compassion united.  
Mary is the one who experienced most deeply  
the meaning of God's mercy. [1.03]*

## **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17** *(Sixth Institute Chapter begins)*

### **Today we ask for HOPE**

May we have enough courage and confidence to engage with the challenges of our Mercy life together, trusting more in the bounty of God's Providence than in the securities we create for ourselves.

*Our charism comes to us  
through our founder, Catherine McAuley.  
Catherine and her first companions felt themselves called  
to a new way of living and practising mercy.  
With their hearts centred on God,  
they moved out freely, despite difficulties and dangers,  
even to death,  
and met God's mercy in courageous service  
of those who lived in different kinds of poverty.  
They trusted totally in God's providence  
and placed themselves under the special care  
of Mary, the Mother of Mercy. [1.04]*

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

### **Today we ask for LOVE**

May each one of us throughout our Institute consistently do all we can to create that true communion of life – integrity, respect, kindness, forgiveness, joy - which Catherine desired for us all.

*In our communities,  
we try to live in the friendship of Christ's disciples [Jn 15:15].  
To so live calls forth relationships of equality,  
a real acceptance of ourselves and others,  
a forgetfulness of anything  
that does not make love its message. [5.10]*

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

### Today we ask for **WISDOM**

May we live with our hearts centred on God so that we can hear God's word, speak God's truth and obey God's purpose.

*Alone, and together,  
we listen to the voice of the Spirit,  
speaking through the sources  
that all Christians learn to recognize:  
the wondrous presence within creation,  
the scriptures, the voice of the church,  
the signs of the times, the events of our lives,  
the needs of others. [3.32]*

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

### Today we ask for **PATIENCE**

May we live easily with the quiet conviction that precious things are worth waiting for.

May our capacity to suffer with purpose be strengthened.

May we grow in resilience and tolerance.

And may we wait in peace to understand God and God's ways, as God waits with infinite patience for us.

*We know also  
that the death of Jesus  
had to precede Pentecost [Jn 16:7];  
that Mary's Magnificat,  
re-spoken in darkness as well as in light,  
was always a hymn of praise and joy [Lk 1:46-55];  
that Catherine's peace grew in adversity,  
as she meditated profoundly on the Passion of Jesus [3.15].*

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

### Today we ask for **WONDER**

May we be daring enough to imagine God.

May we be still enough to contemplate God's mysteries,  
ancient and ever-new.

May we be attentive enough to recognise the small epiphanies of  
every day and simple enough to delight in them.

*In the riches of contemplative prayer,  
we can find that creative aloneness  
which gives us strength  
and which comes from the desire for God alone [5.04] ...*

*By reflecting on the unfolding mystery of creation,  
and its universal cycle of birth, death, and rebirth,  
we understand redemption  
as cosmic reconciliation and transformation.*

*We learn to know community  
as embracing the whole Earth community,  
the whole cosmic web of life. [5.07]*

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

### Today we ask for **FORGIVENESS**

May we have enough self-awareness and honesty to know our need  
for it.

May we be fearless enough to seek it.

And whenever forgiveness is asked of us, may we know so well  
the truth of our own sinfulness that our response is quick and full-  
hearted.

*Catherine encourages us never to let the sun  
go down on our anger,  
to be quick to ask forgiveness  
for anything in our conduct that may disturb our union.*

*Conscious of our frailty and our need for healing,  
we seek God's reconciling love.*

*We are led, especially, to understand the healing  
that takes place through our compassion  
towards one another. [5.11]*

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

### Today we ask for **CHEERFULNESS**

May its rich and various expressions enliven us all: enthusiasm for one's life commitment, warm regard for every sister's individuality, loving spontaneity, the sort of humour which makes us laugh - at no-one's expense, and an abiding sense of privilege that we are part of creation sparkling with God's genius. May they help us to become holy.

*We are called to be symbols of a radically transformed meaning of life, a life that finds the sacred in everything, a life that is a powerful sign of profound joy and a deep sense of belonging. Through our graced womanhood we witness, in a particular way, to the human face of God. [5.02]*

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

### Today we ask for **GRATITUDE**

May we keep in mind that God, ever-creating the universe, ever-loving each one of us into life, fashioning us in the divine image, is nearer to us than we are to ourselves.

May we take nothing for granted.

Especially this day, as we honour Mary, the Mother of Mercy, may we give thanks for her brave, redemptive cooperation with God - for the sake of all generations, and for her gracious care of Sisters of Mercy across all the years since Catherine and her first companions.

And again, here and now, we ask Mary to remember us, that in all our being and doing we will remain faithful to the God of Mercy and 'given-over' to the needs of the most vulnerable people, as she was.

*Devotion to Mary is expressed among us in both our private and our communal prayer. We honour her in a special way as our Mother of Mercy, our special patron. To her we dedicate ourselves on our day of profession. We venerate in Mary the prophetic woman of faith. In her life she made visible the steadfast love and mercy of God. [5.08]*

