

# Fire Cast On The Earth - Kindling





# History of the Sisters of Mercy of Ireland in terms of Ministry of Spirituality

- What does this reflection have to say to us as we endeavour to fan the flame of Mercy into a blaze for the future?

# LINKING WITH SOCIAL ANALYSIS PAPERS

- \* Elizabeth Davis
- \* Anne Itotia
- \* Elizabeth McMillan
- \* Senolita Vakata



# Being Mercy in the Twenty-First Century

- Catherine and her Early Associates
- Long Period of Ministry in Institutional Settings
- Post Vatican II Diversity
- Present Day More Collaborative Approach to the Ministry of Spirituality

# Catherine and her Early Associates:



1. Solicitude for the spiritual well-being of all \*
2. Particular concern for those in extreme poverty\* \* \*
3. Protection of women and children \* \* \*
4. Dealing with epidemics courageously \*
5. Willingness to risk falling in with controversial systems in order to permeate them with Gospel values.
6. Courage in approaching appropriate authorities to gain access to those held captive in unjust systems in order to bring them the support of their religion. \* \* \*
7. Being a reconciling influence in cases of bitterness and dissension.\*

# Ministry in Institutional Settings

- a) Extending positive spiritual influence by providing professional training for others. \*  
\*
- b) Having the value of the 'solace of religion' gradually appreciated.
- c) Systemic changes \* \* - greater freedom -  
Ministry of Spirituality\*
- d) Courageous witness -  
new members -  
broader outreach. \* \*

*The LORD is  
good to all: and his  
tender mercies are  
over all his works.*

# Post Vatican II Diversity

- a) A call to return to the Gospel; the spirit of the Foundress; and the signs of the times \*
- b) Fall in vocations caused us to rationalise \*
- c) Sisters of Mercy entrusted with new responsibilities \*
- d) Renewal of our lives – especially through renewal of our Constitutions

*In particular this concern is reflected in our commitment to the spiritual welfare of people, through catechesis, through sharing prayer, and through building Christian community. (Const. 43)*

# Present Day More Collaborate Approach to the Ministry of Spirituality

- a) Greater variety of retreats offered by Sisters of Mercy in **collaboration** with others.
- b) **Empowerment** of laity to become spiritual companions at local level. \* \*
- c) Ensuring **accountability** to the Faith community through Supervision of this sacred ministry.
- d) Experience of small **Christian communities** \*
- e) **Pilgrimage** to significant Holy Places \*
- f) **Bereavement Support** \* \* \*



# Welcoming the Stranger



**KNOW  
RACISM**

The National Anti-Racism  
Awareness Programme

"Five Continents – One People"

\*

Davis:

800,000,000 crossed  
international  
borders in 2005

\*

McMillan:

Global Trafficking

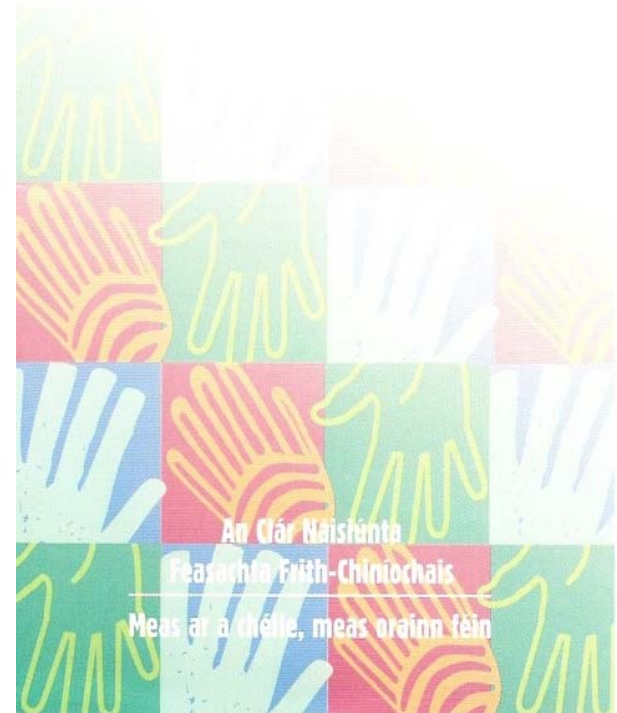
\*

Vadaka:

Tongon Hospitality

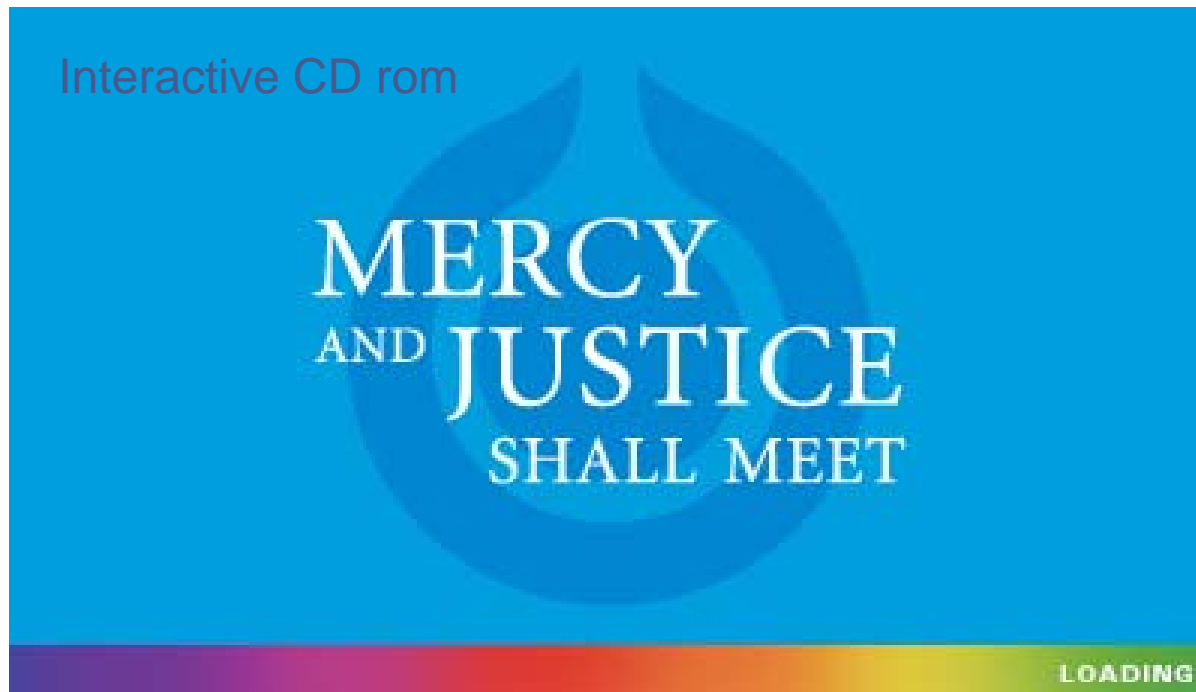


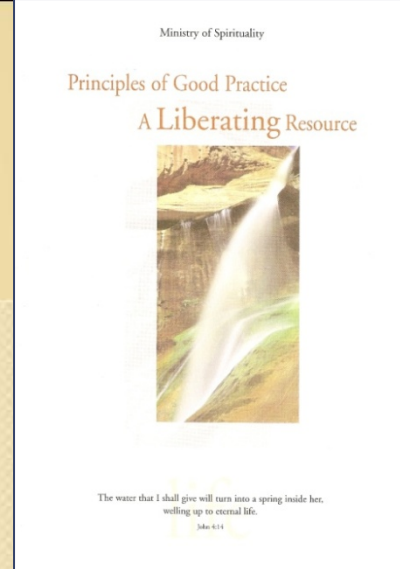
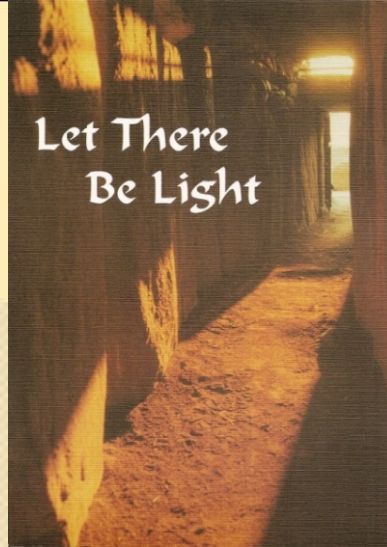
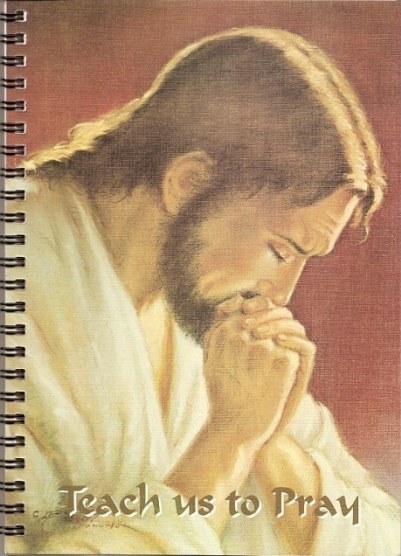
**What You Can Do  
Against Racism**



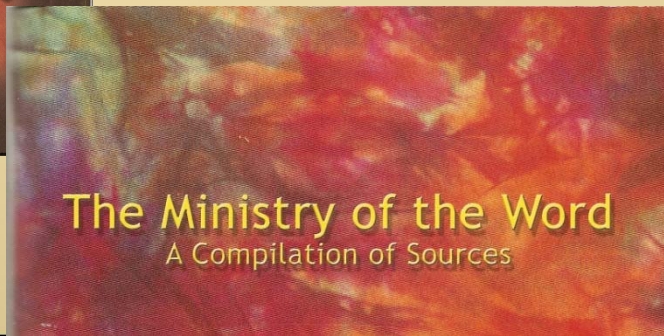
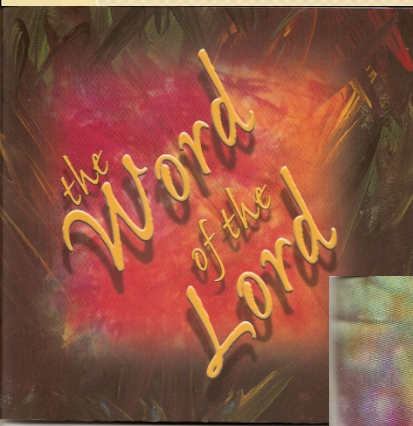
# MEDIA

RNN - Religious News Network –  
local Radio





# RESOURCES



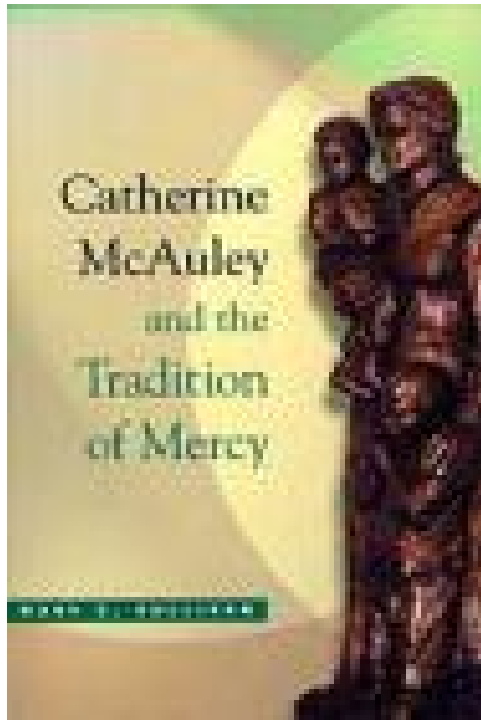
Relationship with God • Ignatian Discernment  
Spiritual Direction • Buddhist Spiritual Direction

# Spirituality of Catherine McAuley

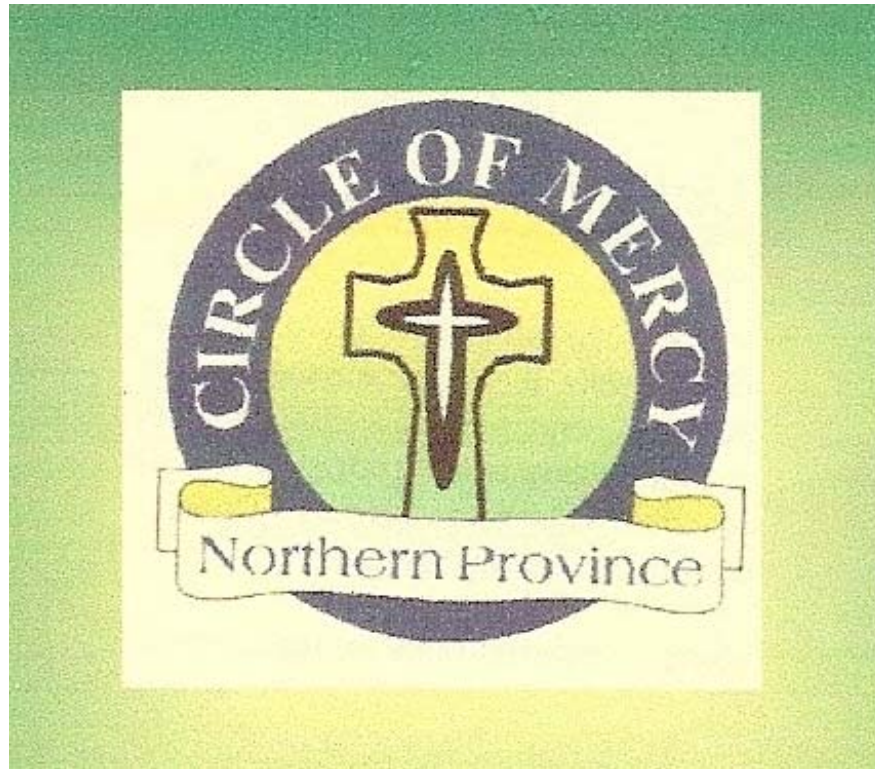


Revisiting rich Mercy resources

*Going Deeper with Catherine* retreat



# Circle of Mercy



Model of *Mercy Associates* with potential for continuing the charism of Mercy independently into the future.

NORTHERN  
NIGERIA-ZAMBIA

SOUTHERN  
BRITISH COLUMBIA-PERU

WESTERN PERU

KENYA

SOUTH AFRICA

USA

CLT

SOUTH CENTRAL  
BRAZIL

CHAPTER EVENT  
~ 2006 ~

# ‘How will we nurture the hunger for God?’

- We call ourselves to personal responsibility for our own growth in spirituality
- Praying together
- Taking Sabbath time regularly
- Availing of retreats and seasonal rituals
- Recognising the diversity of spirituality among us \*
- Maintain an ethos of mutual compassion and caring as community
- Continue our efforts at reconciliation and conflict resolution – so that our actions and lifestyle reflect the heritage of Mercy \*
- Arrange for reflection on our Constitutions; Mercy values and charism; Mercy life of Catherine McAuley; different methods of prayer.

# In Ministry of Spirituality:

- Open ourselves to be enriched by the experience of others \*
- Open our space and spiritual resources to the wider community
- Expand our website to include a data base in the spirituality section to provide information for those seeking meaning in life. \*
- Nurture the contemplative dimension of life.
- Being open to sharing - especially with Associates and others who are searching for meaning.
- Acknowledge both the hunger for God and the malaise in our society. \*
- Encourage pastoral renewal and inter-faith dialogue.\*





*In the footsteps of Jesus and Catherine....*