

*Leadership
Ritual
Handover*



INSTITUTE OF SISTERS OF MERCY OF
AUSTRALIA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Tuesday,
December 12
2017**

INTRODUCTION Helen Baguley RSM & Ann-Maree O’Beirne RSM

PROCESSION: Candle, Threads, Scrolls & Rice

GATHERING HYMN: Wisdom Called Her Daughter Catherine

hymn tune: Hydrofol / Alleluia sing to Jesus

Wisdom called her daughter Catherine
To the loom of mercy’s art.
With design of God’s own dreaming,
Wisdom kindled Catherine’s heart.
Wisdom built a House of Mercy,
Welcomed all with open door;
Unschooled children, homeless women,
Sick and suffering, weak and poor.

Daily Wisdom pleads for women:
“Claim as yours their pains and fears;
Make your own their joys and longing;
Bear their burdens, dry their tears.”
Hear as Wisdom calls the nations:
“Weave a world of harmony;
Spin a web of many colours;
Make a lovely tapestry.”

Wisdom seeks to weave a future
Bright with hope and born of prayer,
Warp and weft a sacred fabric;
Peace with justice all may share.
Wisdom summons still her daughters:
“Weave on the loom of charity
Pray and labour for the Gospel;
Weave a world of unity.”

*Written for the Omaha Sisters of Mercy Regional
Gatherings 2002 by Delores Dufner OSB and
shared with the Sisters of Mercy, Ballarat East,
September 2002. Used with permission.
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104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN USA.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Daphne McKeough RSM

In the presence of our God, Catherine, and all gathered in many places across our Institute we acknowledge that we are standing on traditional lands of the first peoples of Australia.



Artist: Matthew Gill.

WELCOME: Berneice Loch RSM

OPENING PRAYER:

Ann-Maree

**Spirit of Love enfold and teach us.
Spirit of Peace rest deep within.
Spirit of change, transform and heal us,
Spirit Divine. Spirit Divine.**

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Those whom we call to leadership
focus the unity of the Institute
in God, our centre.
Following the mandate of Jesus,
they hold their authority as a service of love. [Matt 20:28] 6.01

Christ's lesson of servant leadership [Jn 13:15]
teaches us to look for ways
of exercising authority and practising obedience,
that liberate and strengthen each sister,
and enable the total body to work more effectively
towards the fullness of God's reign. [VC43]
The gospel understanding of servant leadership
challenges us to find ways of reflecting together
on God's word to us
and to act on that word with free and loving hearts,
sharing responsibility
for our common life and mission. [Eph 4:25]
In the spirit of servant leadership
our leaders are called forth
by the sisters of the Institute
as also the sisters are called to faithfulness
by their servant leaders. [Mk 10:41-45] 6.02

RESPONSE: God's Mercy Is From Age To Age

Cantor: Monica Sinclair RSM

Cantor Introduces response, then repeated by all gathered. Cantor sings verses.

**God's mercy is from age to age,
God's love endures forever.
God's loving kindness moves in us,
And through us to each other.**

We are God's own people,
Let us join together.
Sing of God's mercy in us
For it will last forever.

When we lift another's burden
Show someone we care
God's mercy touches other hearts
As God's love and peace we share.

Fill us with your mercy oh God
Hold us safely in your hand.
Send us out to where there's need
Spread mercy through our land.

Words: Cheryl Camp RSM. Third verse: Marie Leonie Williams RSM.

Music: Ronda Rollino. Used with permission

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 4:1-7

David Penny

Unity in the Body of Christ

I therefore, the prisoner in Christ, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one faith, one baptism, one God of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

**Berneice Loch RSM, Annette Schneider RSM, Sally Bradley RSM,
Barbara Bolster RSM & Theresia Tina RSM:**

Acknowledging the contribution and support of the Sisters and staff of the Institute, we, on this 12th day of December 2017, publicly declare that this term of office as members of the first Leadership team of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea is completed.

**All: We thank our God, each time we think of you.
 And when we pray for you, we pray with joy.**

*"I Thank My God" © Frank Anderson MSC
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“We should be shining lamps giving light to all around us.”

Berneice lights a taper from the old candle and passes the flame to Eveline’s taper to light the new candle. Berneice explains the gift of crystal candle holders and the desire to hand on this gift to the new leadership team.

A Piece of Light

Anne McGuire RSM

There is a piece of light in all of us,
easily seen in the wise Thomas Berry
longing to heal the wounds of our planet,
in Dorothy Day who embraced the poor,
and Mahatma Gandhi, fighting for peace
with the weapon of nonviolence.

There is a piece of light in all of us,
the grandmothers and grandfathers,
children orphaned by AIDS and war,
the feeble, the lame, the disheartened,
the successful as well as the searcher.

There is a piece of light in all of us,
maybe hidden or buried with pain,
perhaps pushed in the corner by shame.
It is there in the arrogant, the hateful,
racists, torturers, and abusers,
and ones who are willing to kill.

Seen or unseen, the light is there,
ready to kindle, eager to expand,
refusing to be tightly contained.
As soon as the tiniest space is allowed
it quickly emerges, floods outward,
illuminating the darkest of places.

One single candle lights a little dark space.
Many candles light a world full of people
desperately in need of each other’s glow.
Each lone light makes us stronger
when we all stand together.

Joyce Rupp “A Piece of Light”

LEADERSHIP PROMISE:

Helen

**Eveline Crotty RSM, Caroline Ryan RSM, Gaye Lennon RSM,
Liz Moloney RSM and Marie Duffy RSM**

We the members of this second leadership team of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea declare our commitment to follow the mandate of Jesus in reflective action for gospel justice. We will look for ways of exercising our leadership that liberate and strengthen each sister and enable our Institute as a whole, to work towards the fullness of God's reign. We make this commitment in the name of God whose transforming mercy fires our hearts with a deep reverence for all creation.

All:

**Amen, we affirm, Amen we encourage,
Amen, we bless and we celebrate, Amen. X3**

"Triple Amen" Cynthia Serjak RSM Sisters of Mercy of the Americas,
Regional Community of Pittsburgh, 1990.
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PROMULGATION OF ACTS OF CHAPTER:

Berneice Loch RSM

CHAPTER STATEMENT:

Chapter Statement handed from current team to new team

Berneice:

Sisters receive this statement, which was made at our Second Institute Chapter. This statement encapsulates our desires for mission, ministry and our way of being together throughout the next six years.

Eveline:

Sisters and Staff of the Institute, wherever you are gathered, please receive your copy of the statement from your ritual leader.

(Local Ritual leaders distribute copies to those gathered.)

Please join us in reading the statement in English and Tok Pisin

*At this time of global vulnerability
God's transforming mercy
fires our hearts anew with
deeper reverence for all creation.*

*Disturbed by
the despair and suffering of many peoples and
the degradation of Earth,
we are impelled to reflective action for
gospel justice.*

**Long dispela taim bilong wol i gat hevi na wari
marimari bilong God i senisim
hat bilong mipela olsem niupela paia
wantaim bikpela ona long olgeta samting.**

**Plenti ol pipol i tingting
long pen na hevi i bagarapim ol
na long ol bagarap ol i mekim
long graun bilong mipela,
dispela i kirapim mipela
long lukluk gen long wei
na stretpela pasin bilong gutnius**

ADDRESS BY OUR LEADER - Eveline Crotty RSM

Eveline's address is read in Tok Pisin by Gaye Lennon RSM

LIGHTING OF NEW CANDLES – PASSING OF LIGHT

Ann-Maree

Our Institute Leadership Team lights the six Community candles held by the Community Leaders who will then move out to those gathered and pass the light to those who have individual candles.

Local Ritual leaders to pass the light to those who have individual candles in each ritual gathering.

Suscipe of Catherine McAuley



Catherine McAuley Bronze
by Gael O'Leary.

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 put my faith 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.

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.

“Suscipe of Catherine McAuley” Elaine Deasey RSM, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas,
Regional Community of Connecticut, 1990.
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PRESENTATION OF GRAINS OF RICE FROM CHAPTER MANDALA

Ann-Maree

In our Chapter grains of coloured rice were used to give expression to the conversation, prayer and thought that surrounded each session in the chapter through the creation of the chapter mandala. These grains were gathered up by the current leadership team in the closing ritual and handed to Eveline and her team in symbolic gesture.



PRAYER OVER THE NEW TEAM

Helen

Gracious God

We pray for these women, elected to lead the
Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

We ask you to confirm them with the graces of your Spirit:

the grace of love

to nurture unity and affection
among their sisters;

the grace of contemplation

to hear your words of
wisdom and compassion sounding in their hearts;

the grace of understanding

to recognise the people and places
longing for your mercy;

the grace of humility

to own their constant need for you;

the grace of gratitude

to enjoy the many ways you show them
your goodness, truth and beauty.

As they minister the authority entrusted to them,
inspire them

to think with the mind of Jesus,
to feel with his heart and
to act with his purpose,
for the sake of all they serve.

Amen

FINAL PRAYER:

Helen

All:

**God help us to change.
To change ourselves and to change our world.
To know the need for it. To deal with the pain of it.
To feel the joy of it.
To undertake the journey without understanding the destination.
The art of gentle revolution. Amen.**

Prayer used courtesy of Michael Leunig

May the God of mercy bless and protect us all. **Amen.**
May the God of peace comfort us in times of trial. **Amen.**
May the God of love shine forth in our lives. **Amen**

FINAL HYMN:

A Fire on the Earth

Michael Herry FMS

I am sending you out in my name to all the world
Travel lightly, taking only sandals and staff.
I am sending you out in my name to all the world.
Be filled with Gospel fire, the light of the world.

**Light a fire of the earth, a fire on the earth.
Be seized by the love of God, a fire on the earth.
Light a fire on the earth, a fire on the earth.
Be the hands and feet of Christ to all the world.**

By the pow'r of the Holy Spirit set your sails.
Cast out deeply, fearing not the wind and waves.
Live your lives in witness to me before the world.
Take heart, for I am with you all your days.

Be my light to all the world for all to see;
Shine out brightly doing all for love of me.
And rejoice when the road is rough and days are long
Take heart, for I'll be with you in your song.

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Copyright & Acknowledgments

MUSIC: As noted under each hymn.

SCRIPTURE: New Revised Standard Version

POETRY: Rupp, Joyce. "A Piece of Light" in *The Cosmic Dance : An Invitation to Experience Our Oneness*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2002, 85.

Leunig, Michael. "God help us to Change",
<http://www.leunig.com.au/works/prayers>. 2017

GRAPHIC: Anne McMillan RSM

IMAGES: Aboriginal Artwork - Artist: Matthew Gill.
North Shore of Lake Mackay. Kukatja People. Northern Territory.
Original painting on display at the Insitute Centre Stanmore NSW.

Catherine McAuley Bronze by Gael O'Leary.
Statue at the Institute Centre Stanmore NSW

Mandala & Leadership Teams
Photos taken by John Rochester

Image of Fire - Licenced AdobeStock_37387915

MUSICIANS: Anne Gallagher RSM, (Piano)
Monica Sinclair RSM (Cantor)
Sisters of Mercy (Choir)

RITUAL LEADERS: Helen Baguley RSM & Ann-Maree O'Beirne RSM

LIVESTREAMING: John Rochester

RITUAL HANDOVER COMMITTEE:

Barbara Bolster RSM (Chair)
Helen Baguley RSM
Ann-Maree O'Beirne RSM
John Rochester



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