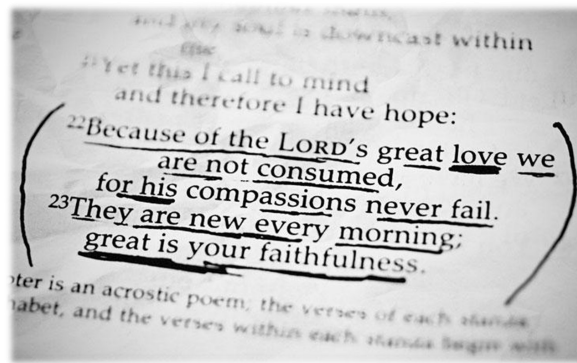


The Call to Mercy



Compassionate action can flow when we allow ourselves to 'see' ... and open ourselves to 'feel' the river of compassion that is an essential part of the path of mercy we seek to walk.

Gathering Rite:

Connect—As you gather take some time to greet each other.

If you are praying alone let friends come to mind.

Share (or notice silently) the ways in which Mercy has been experienced in your life lately.

A Call to Prayer:

Pause and share a few moments of silence, perhaps focusing on breathing to still your mind and come into the quiet. Light a candle. Use the words of this prayer to honour a movement now from ordinary time into sacred time.

Opening Prayer:

Standing at the Gates of an Experience

(Adapted from prayer by Joyce Rupp)

Sacred Mystery,
waiting on the threshold
of this experience,
you open the gates
and beckon to me:
"Come! Come!"

Be not wary of what awaits you
as you enter the unknown terrain,
be not doubtful of your ability
to grow from its joys and sorrows.
For I am with you.

I will be your Guide.
I will be your Protector.
You will never be alone."

Guardian of this experience,
I set aside my fears, worries, concerns,
I open myself to mystery, to beauty,
To hospitality, to questions,
To the endless opportunity
of discovering you in my relationships,
And to all the silent wisps of wonder
That will draw me to your heart.

*I welcome your unfailing Presence
And walk with hope into this experience.*

For Reflection:

Choose one of the suggestions below for your reflection

Holy Presence

Take some time in the quiet to reflect on this poem and contemplate the presence of Immensity in creation and in our experiences of late.

or

Be present and listen to a song.

Suggestion: Pour Out Compassion and Mercy by Briege O'Hare

<https://soundcloud.com/mercyworld/pour-out-compassion-and-mercy>

A leaf and Immensity

Behind all we see
within every story
a falling leaf . . .
a delicate web . . .
a piece of sky . . .
a quiet deed . . .
there is Immensity!



*from Love Finds a Way
by Noel Davis*

Holy Service

“The spiritual and corporal works of mercy which draw religious from a life of contemplation, so far from separating them from the love of God, unite them more closely to Him and render them more valuable in His holy service.”

Catherine McAuley



Be aware of how has your service as a Mercy Associate touched your relationship with the Sacred ?

Closing Prayer of Celebration and Gratitude: The Heart of Eternal Love

Out of the Ordinary, Joyce Rupp

Heart of Love,
Source of all kindness,
Teacher of the ways of goodness,
you are hidden in the pockets of
daily life,
waiting to be discovered.

Heart of Gladness,
Joy that sings in our souls,
the Dancer and the Dance,
you are Music radiating in our
cherished caches of consolation.

Heart of Compassion,
the Healing One weeping
for a world burdened and bent,
you are the heart we bring
to the wounded, worn and weary.

Heart of Comfort,
Sheltering Wings of love,
Refuge for sad and lonely ones,
you embrace all who bear loss,
gathering their tears with care.

Heart of Understanding,
One who gazes upon the imperfect,
the incomplete, the flawed, the weak,
you never stop extending mercy.

Heart of Generosity,
Abundance of insight and hope,
daily you offer us gifts of growth,
leading to continual transformation.

*If we are humble and sincere, God
will finish in us the work begun.
God never refuses Grace to those
who ask it.*

*Catherine McAuley,
Familiar Instructions.*

Heart of Deepest Peace,
Centre of tranquillity,
Resting Place at the core of our being,
you are waiting always for our
Return to this sacred home.