

Celebrating Mercy Day with prayer...

For this Mercy day,
I will rest in the Word;
I rise with the images of Mercy
in my heart.
I aspire to live and give,
receive and encounter Mercy,
this day and every day,
inspired by Mary who mothered
Mercy,
and with the help of her Son,
Jesus the Christ of Mercy.
Amen.

Mary Wickham,
Mercy Novena Prayer, 2019

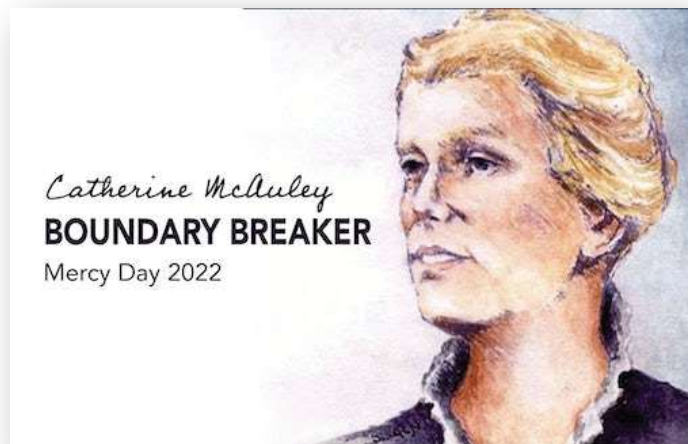


Image: Mercy International Association

Catherine McAuley's faith and life...

- ♣ She emptied herself of the comfort of her former way of life.
- ♣ She took the form of a servant in her human context.
- ♣ She extended her affectionate embrace to otherness.
- ♣ She opened her door to strangers.
- ♣ She welcomed them.
- ♣ She learned from those who were different and left them whole in their Godly difference.
- ♣ She humbled herself before all human forms.
- ♣ And she followed, as best she could, the example of Christ, who became obedient to God's wide and merciful love of all humankind, even to the point of death, death on a cross.

If we wish to sow the seeds of real hope in our world, I think Catherine McAuley would say: This is the way we must do it — one person at a time: one answering of the figurative doorbell, one opening of the figurative door, one embrace of the stranger, one welcoming of the other, one sharing of our bread and milk — one person at a time.

Patricia Smith, 'Mercy Values Today: Every Ancient, Ever New', MIA 2022 Mercy Day Prayer.

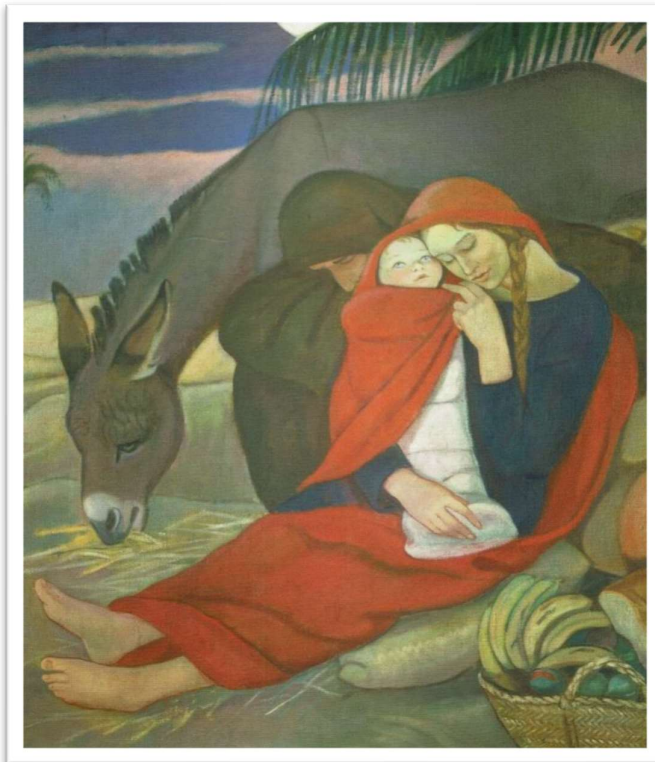
To Ponder: How does Catherine's life inspire you to push boundaries in the world?
As people of Mercy, how are we called to break boundaries?

The Escape to Egypt

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, **took the child and his mother by night**, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

Matthew 2:12-15



*Elisabeth Chaplin, Rest in Egypt (Oasis), c. 1923,
Pitti Palace, Florence*

We pray:

For those who need safe shelter, clothing or nourishing food, we pray: *Response: Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For those struggling to be forgiven or to forgive, we pray: *Response*

For those seeking justice for themselves or for others, we pray: *Response*

For those most vulnerable to oppression and neglect, we pray: *Response*

For those who seek a kind word, a gentle, compassionate look or the patient hearing of their sorrows, we pray: *Response*

For those who are poor, sick or lacking the knowledge they need, we pray: *Response*

For those suffering as a result of the degradation of earth, our common home, we pray: *Response.*

For those who serve others through their spiritual and corporal works of mercy, we pray: *Response*

Gently rain down your love on us, O God of Mercy, and fill us with your spirit of compassion and justice. Guide us to act in merciful ways. Enable us, with Mary, Our Lady of Mercy, to be 'boundary breakers' through our generous hospitality and the quality of our presence to those in need of mercy, **Amen.**

[adapted from Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, 2009, Intercessions of Mercy Skokie IL: ACTA Publications, p. 292]