

Prayer for Living the Ordinary

The season of *Ordinary Time* enables us to witness to the presence of the risen Jesus in the community of faith, and to celebrate the presence of God in the ordinary patterns of human life.

The liturgical colour of Ordinary Time – green – points to our Christian hope and life, as we attend to the mystery of Christ in all its fullness present in everyday life.

A Call to Prayer

As you prepare to pray today allow your body to relax comfortably and attend to your breathing. Say to yourself: 'All I am doing now is breathing.'

Then: listen as this poem. Read it slowly in rhythm with your breath.

Let Your God Love You.

Be silent.
Be still.
Alone.
Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you
With an enormous love,
And only wants
To look upon you
With that love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.

Let your God—Love you.

Edwina Gateley

For Your Reflection:

The Life of Catherine McAuley

Adapted from Be As Shining Lamps Caroline Thompson pg-11

Extraordinary she was,
but only because she lived the ordinary,
seeing the colours of God always,
the rainbow of need and response,
help and heal, pray and be present.
Yes, we venerate her as exemplar,
standing with reverence by the holy space she fills -
... a human being, a woman,
who found herself a friend of God, Catherine of Dublin.

Mary Wickham rsm. Being the Bird. (extract)

Catherine invited likeminded people to join in her mission of mercy. Consider for a moment the 'ordinary ways' that reflect your like-mindedness and participation in the 'holy space' that is mission and mercy.

For a time of silent prayer:

A lamp for the way

from Love Finds a Way by Noel Davis

The gift of our life experiences
reflected upon ...

prayed into our flesh and being ...

becomes our lamp
for the way.

Prayerfully search your everyday experiences and discover what you find yourself passionate about, and what gives you light and guidance in your everyday ordinary life.

To share with your friends:

Your mercy passions.

Encounters that seem both ordinary and extraordinary.



The Season
of Ordinary Time

of Ordinary Time

"Mercy Associates are called to live and share the mercy of God" M.A Vision Statement

*"We are not here to save yesterday. We are here to be the Mercy spirit of the age. What you have to do is to decide what your fire will be and share it." Joan Chittister OSB, speaking to Mercy International Association
Opening Doors to an Emerging future: a generative conversation with the Mercy family. Sept 2021*

Faith Community: A 'Holy Space' for living the ordinary

From: 'Deeply Woven Roots: Improving the Quality of Life in Your Community'

"God intends the renewal of the whole world..... The church does not choose it's own future. Rather, it is formed in the creative tension between the actuality of the human situation and the intentions of God."

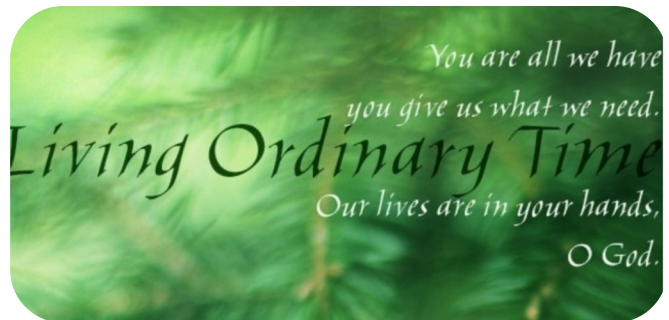
The following are roles of faith communities considered important for forming and sustaining human communities that are healthy and reflect God's intentions. They include:

- * To Accompany
- * To Convene
- * To Connect
- * To Bless
- * To Endure
- * To Give Sanctuary
- * To Tell Stories

A Mercy Associate faith community forms and sustains our faith and life.

Share conversation together: tell a story from your experience—ordinary or extraordinary— that reflects a way that your MA faith community has helped to form and sustain your faith and life.

What would I like our 'fire' to be and to share among ourselves and for others in 2026?



New Year's Prayer for each other.

May this New Year arrive gently, like a quiet sunrise after a long night.

May it find you stronger than you realize and softer where it matters most.

May this year heal what last year could not. May it restore what was lost, mend what was broken, and breathe hope into places that grew tired of waiting.

May your heart learn to rest without fear, to trust without doubt, and to hope again—even when it feels fragile.

May you discover that you were never behind, never forgotten, never too late.

In this New Year, may joy surprise you in ordinary moments, peace settle where anxiety once lived, and gratitude grow even in small beginnings.

May your prayers be heard, your tears counted, and your quiet strength rewarded.

May God walk ahead of you, stand beside you, and surround you with grace.

May you enter this year not just surviving — but becoming, healing, and blooming in ways you never imagined.

Step into 2026 with faith. The best chapters are still being written. Amen.

Source unknown.