

'Jesus invites all of us to "Go and do likewise" – to shape all around us a culture of mercy and compassion, to be clothed in compassion, to walk in the way of mercy as the principal path pointed out by Jesus, to be passionate about encountering others on the path to seeking peace, to live in the image of the One whose name is mercy.'

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



'One cannot think of creating circles and culture of mercy without reflecting on Pope Francis's image of the church as oriented towards missionary activities. It is crucial that we note that the missionary activity of the church is directed towards contemporary outskirts that strongly mark human existence. My ministry in South Sudan has opened my eyes and now I can see that outskirts are the new challenge for the church. Nevertheless, the church's main mission remains that of revealing more strongly signs of God's presence and closeness in the world.'

-Scholasticah Nganda rsm



Galilee Spirituality (Circle) Team, Sligo/Roscommon, Ireland

'Twenty years ago, a circle appeared on the Sligo/Roscommon border. It was a circle drawn on the face of lakes and mountains. Wisdom was present, the divine artisan, delighting in the human community making its foundation there. This circle has been a source of grace and protection for the people of the area over these years. The Mercy community has held and served the locality with creative, prayerful presence expressed in hospitality and opportunities to deepen and nourish the spirit.'

-Dr Anne Francis



We should be as the compass Our centre is God, from whom all our actions should spring from as their source – Catherine McAuley (Artwork by Tara Egger)

'Whenever I think of the word mercy, I think of the Hail Mary as it is sometimes prayed in Hebrew and Arabic. Blessed is the fruit of your womb. That word for womb, *rechem* or *raham*, shares the same linguistic root as *mercy* in both languages. Mercy is a womb. It is something that encloses us, keeps us safe, and more than that, it is the place where we are formed.'

-Dr. Victoria Biggs

'Like Catherine McAuley, let us gather in mission and prayer, inviting the fullness of the loving sphere of God awaiting an invitation to join our circles. Find your porch with friends, or circle of likeminded people knowing that the Spirit will engage in our global efforts to use our hands to do the works of mercy and our hearts to be compassion to and for our suffering world.'

-Tylia Barnes

'Encounter is in some ways, a proxy for "mercy" placing the emphasis on compassion rather than judgment. We are called to not only meet Christ in the poor, but that the poor perceive Christ in us and in our actions. By being rooted in Christ's personal experience we can contribute to a "culture of mercy" that deeply renews hearts and opens up to a new reality.'

-Sandra Lupi rsm

'Through the eyes of Mercy, with the hands of Mercy, with the voices of Mercy, in the spirit of Mercy we are emboldened to live our lives anew, in Mercy and Justice to heal a hurting world.'

-Timothy Sherlock (Song Commissioned by Sisters of Mercy Brisbane)

'The Samaritan's first response is not to do it alone but to create circles of mercy. The first circle he creates comes from Earth with the oil and wine, the fruits of the Earth. He then uses his animal to carry the injured man and the road to take him to the inn. The built environment of the inn also becomes part of that circle of mercy. And, finally, he trusts the inn keeper to continue the healing when he left.'

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



CREATING CIRCLES OF MERCY AND A CULTURE OF MERCY

