

## Make the New MIA Vision Statement Your Own



### The Vision Statement

*Deeply rooted in the Gospel and the legacy of Catherine McAuley, Mercy International Association seeks to gather the inspiration and energies of the Sisters of Mercy, our associates, colleagues and partners worldwide toward the creation of a Mercy Global Presence. Standing with the displaced, we will model a world of welcome and inclusion. Actively engaged in the protection of our Common Home we will witness the sacredness of all creation. Through the work of the Association and through the longing and efforts of the entire Mercy family, we will strive for the globalization of compassion and the recognition of God's mercy as present and active in our world.*

*This vision keeps alive the Founding Spirit of Catherine among people of the World most in need of God's compassion and Mercy.*

In 2007, the Members of Mercy International Association adopted a statement of vision which, appropriate to that time, focused on the Association and on the ministry of Mercy International Centre.

The vision statement which we now embrace calls the entire Mercy family – sisters, associates, partners in ministry – to a new moment and a new relationship: Mercy Global Presence. Drawing on the wisdom of the Mercy International Reflection Process, we hear the summons to link the energies of Mercy around the world. Within this global web of attention and compassion, we commit to solidarity with the oppressed and to the protection of our Common Home.

You are invited to appropriate this worldwide Mercy vision as your own, first by reflection on the vision's roots in Scripture and the legacy of Catherine McAuley.

***Standing with the displaced, we will model a world of welcome and inclusion.***

*The strangers who resides with you shall be to you as natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.  
(Leviticus 19:34)*

*For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in.  
(Matthew 25:35)*

*My brothers and sisters, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions among classes of people.  
(James 2:1)*

*'By courageous, contagious concern for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the poor, the sick and the ignorant, she broke through the impossibilities of her time. She animated many to walk with her. She animated others at centres of wealth, power and influence to share in her heroic efforts. She connected the rich to the poor, the healthy to the sick, the educated and skilled to the uninstructed, the influential to those of no consequence, the powerful to the weak – to do the work of God on earth'. (Tender Courage)  
Joanna Regan and Isabel Keiss*

*I would rather be cold and hungry than the poor in Kingston or elsewhere be deprived of any consolation in our power to afford. Catherine McAuley to Theresa White, November 1, 1838*

*You must waste time with visitors. Catherine McAuley to Frances Warde*

November 24, 1840

*It is better to relieve 100 imposters— if there be any such — than to suffer one really distressed person to be sent away empty. Catherine McAuley*  
Familiar Instructions

*Try to meet all with peace and ease. Catherine McAuley to Elizabeth Moore*  
December, 1838

***Actively engaged in the protection of our Common Home we will witness to the sacredness of all creation.***

*If you would learn more, ask the cattle, seek information from the birds of the air. The creeping things of the earth will give you lessons, and the fish of the sea will tell you all. There is not one such creature but will know that this is all of God's own making. (Job 12: 7 – 9)*

Psalm 104

*We must try to be like those rivers which enter the sea without losing any of the sweetness of the water. Catherine McAuley* The Spirit of the Institute

*We have two great comforts here, excellent bread ...and pure sparkling spring water. Catherine McAuley to Cecilia Marmion January 15, 1841*

*Every place has its own particular ideas and feelings which must be yielded to when possible. Catherine McAuley to Frances Warde November 17, 1838*

*The Lord and Master of our House and Home is a faithful Provider.  
Let us never desire more than enough – He will give us that and a blessing.  
Catherine McAuley to Teresa Purcell, early 1841*

***We will strive for the globalization of compassion and the recognition of God's Mercy as present and active in our world.***

*You are God's chosen race, his saints; God loves you, and you should be clothed  
in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience.  
(Colossians 3: 12 – 13)*

*The favors of the Lord are not all past,  
God's kindnesses are not exhausted;  
every morning they are renewed;  
great is God's faithfulness.  
(Lamentations (3: 22 – 23)*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of  
compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles,  
so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves  
receive from God.  
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)*

*If we love God we will undoubtedly love our neighbor also; they are cause  
and effect.*

*Retreat Instructions*

*Try to meet all with peace and ease. Catherine McAuley to Elizabeth Moore  
December, 1838*

*We must be as shining lamps, giving light to all around us. Catherine  
McAuley*

*Retreat Instructions*

*We can never say 'It is enough'. Catherine McAuley Familiar Instructions*

When the words of the statement and your pondering of the passages above have settled in you, you are invited to make a commitment that represents your desire to give flesh to the Mercy International Association vision in your own life and in your place of ministry. Perhaps you will want to share your reflections with others and form a group resolution.

However you choose to engage the statement, you will join the Mercy family as we enliven this statement of our common purpose and vision.

To help create a worldwide sense of solidarity, you are invited to send your commitment to Mary Reynolds rsm, CEO MIA.

E: [director@mercyinternational.ie](mailto:director@mercyinternational.ie)

