

The Beginnings of Mercy



In 1839, Catherine wrote to Sr Elizabeth Moore and said that the Sisters of Mercy commenced with two people, Anna Maria Doyle and herself. The plan from the beginning was such as was then in practice. In 1827 the House of Mercy was opened. In a year and a half they were joined so fast that it became a matter of *general wonder*.

From these beginnings with just two, it is a matter of even greater wonder that today the Mercy family, made up of Sisters, Associates, Partners in Mercy (including students in Mercy Schools across the world) numbers close to half-a-million people in over 30 countries!

Task: People from all over the world are participating in the Mercy Day Mass. Color in the countries on the map that are mentioned in the Mass.



Then visit www.mercyworld.org/about/mercy-family/ to see where else Mercy is present. Color any countries you missed in a different color. If there are countries missing, from the map above, where Mercy is present - add them too!

When you look at your colored map and see the spread of Mercy today, what do you think Catherine might write in a letter to Elizabeth Moore about the spread of Mercy today?

Works of Mercy

Catherine McAuley placed great importance on helping those who were in need and soon after the House of Mercy was opened, the women started to visit the poor in their homes.



This image was sketched by Sr Clare Agnew in 1839. It shows the Sisters visiting the sick in their homes. One of the things that the Sisters took as a gift to the poor was soap, because they believed that good hygiene was really important. This year, you have probably heard many people tell you to wash your hands and to practice good hygiene! What else do you notice about this sketch that captures your imagination?

The Good Cup of Tea

On her deathbed Catherine McAuley asked her sisters to enjoy a 'good cup of tea' in the community room after her passing. Today the 'good cup of tea' represents warm hospitality and generosity among the Mercy family. Each year Mercy International Association encourages all in our Mercy family to organise a "Good Cup of Tea" event.

Visit www.goodcupoftea.org/ to find out more about hosting an event in your school. And if you are unable to hold an event because of covid restrictions, think about how you could host a virtual Good Cup of Tea event!