



'We know that Winter hides a promise of Spring beneath its coat. It takes faith, hope and courage in these days to listen to the inner voices and remain present as we prepare for a season of giving and receiving. We know, too, that COVID-19 roves our world irrespective of borders and life is fragile. Change arrives unannounced, and we search for a new way of unfolding to the mystery of life that surrounds us.'

- Patricia McMahon rsm



Presence to others may only be truly realised once our hearts are tuned inwards, listening and reflecting and acting on our inner voice, the ultimate act of presence to self. This is *the Mercy effect*.'

-Catherine Elliott

'**Tenth Station: Jesus' clothes are taken away** – Madeleine wakes up by the entrance door of the day centre. Her trolley, bags and all other belongings are gone. As staff arrived to open the centre for the day, she is screaming. Madeleine is my client. I assure her we have plenty of clothes; we can get her more clothes. But her children's photos are gone, her purse is gone. Her own belongings have been taken. A homeless woman's life has been stolen whilst she slept'

- Ali Roach rsm

'**You shall love your neighbour as yourself.**

(Matt 22:39)

'**Sometimes our presence alone is enough to bring peace and well-being to another.**

-Siobhán Golden



'Visitation' Therese Quinn rsj. Used with permission

'**Mercy characterizes the relationship between self and the other. Mercy is the face of God between self and the other. Mercy is inclusive of everyone in need. Mercy presence relates or bridges self with the other whom God sends to us to be our neighbor.**

- Carmela Cabactulan rsm

'**To listen another's being into life, may almost be the greatest service that any human being ever performs for another.**

(Douglas Steere)

'Based on the invitation of Pope Francis to care for our Common Home and to act as the protectors of our Mother Earth, I am currently supporting young people in the Highlands area of the Province of Chiriquí in my country (Panama), for an integral formation process where they can really get closer to embracing their identity as an indigenous population and dignify their own culture so that they can become aware and participate in processes as rightful citizens of this country.'

-Edia "Tita" Lopez rsm, Panama



'**Our charity is to be cordial. Now cordial signifies something that renews, invigorates, and warms. Such should be the effect of our love for each other.**

(Catherine McAuley)

'**The image of Mary and Elizabeth meeting in a deeply prophetic moment is a moving expression of presence to one another in all its depths and richness.**

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



# PRESENCE TO SELF AND OTHERS

Voices, Quotes and Images from Theme 4, Segment 3: Presence  
© 2021 Mercy International Association

