



International GOOD CUP OF TEA

International Good of Cup Tea Event

Welcome

Introduction: *Today we remember, Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.*

In her last moments, Catherine McAuley directed that the Sisters of Mercy would have a good cup of tea together in the community room, after she had gone.

During this Season of Mercy (24 September – 12 December), Mercy groups throughout the world are sharing in an international 'Good Cup of Tea' event. By supporting this event, you are helping Mercy International Association to keep the founding spirit of Catherine alive today.

A Short History: Venerable Catherine McAuley

In September 1827 Catherine McAuley established a 'House of Mercy' in Baggot Street, Dublin, Ireland. There she and several companions provided food, clothing, housing and education for many of Dublin's poor women and young girls. In 1831, with the approval of Archbishop Daniel Murray, she and her first companions founded the Congregation of Sisters of Mercy, the house in Baggot Street serving as its first convent.

Over the next ten years, as new co-workers presented themselves, thirteen other convents, two of them in England, were established. Invitations to found further convents were by now reaching Baggot Street from many parts of the world.

Catherine died a holy death on 11 November, 1841. Within a few decades her congregation had spread worldwide. It is still one of the largest congregations of women religious in the Church.

On 9 April, 1990, by decree of Pope John Paul II, Catherine McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, was declared Venerable, in recognition of her holy life, her love of God and her merciful work among the poor. This is a major step in naming her a saint.

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Catherine McAuley once wrote: "Mercy, the principal path pointed out by Jesus Christ to those who are desirous of following him, has in all ages of the Church excited the faithful in a particular manner to instruct and comfort the sick and dying poor as in them they regarded the person of our Divine Master."

by Mary C Sullivan RSM

Prayer: On this day we remember all deceased members of the Mercy family and pray for those who are sick and who have asked for our prayers.

God of love and mercy

You inspired Catherine McAuley

To serve your son

By responding to the needs of her time,

We ask that through her prayers

You reach out with your healing love

And restore

To full health,

We ask this in complete confidence

Through Jesus Christ, Your son.

Amen

Venerable Catherine pray for us.

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Conclusion

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