

'A Lens on the Works of Mercy: Clare Agnew and her Legacy'

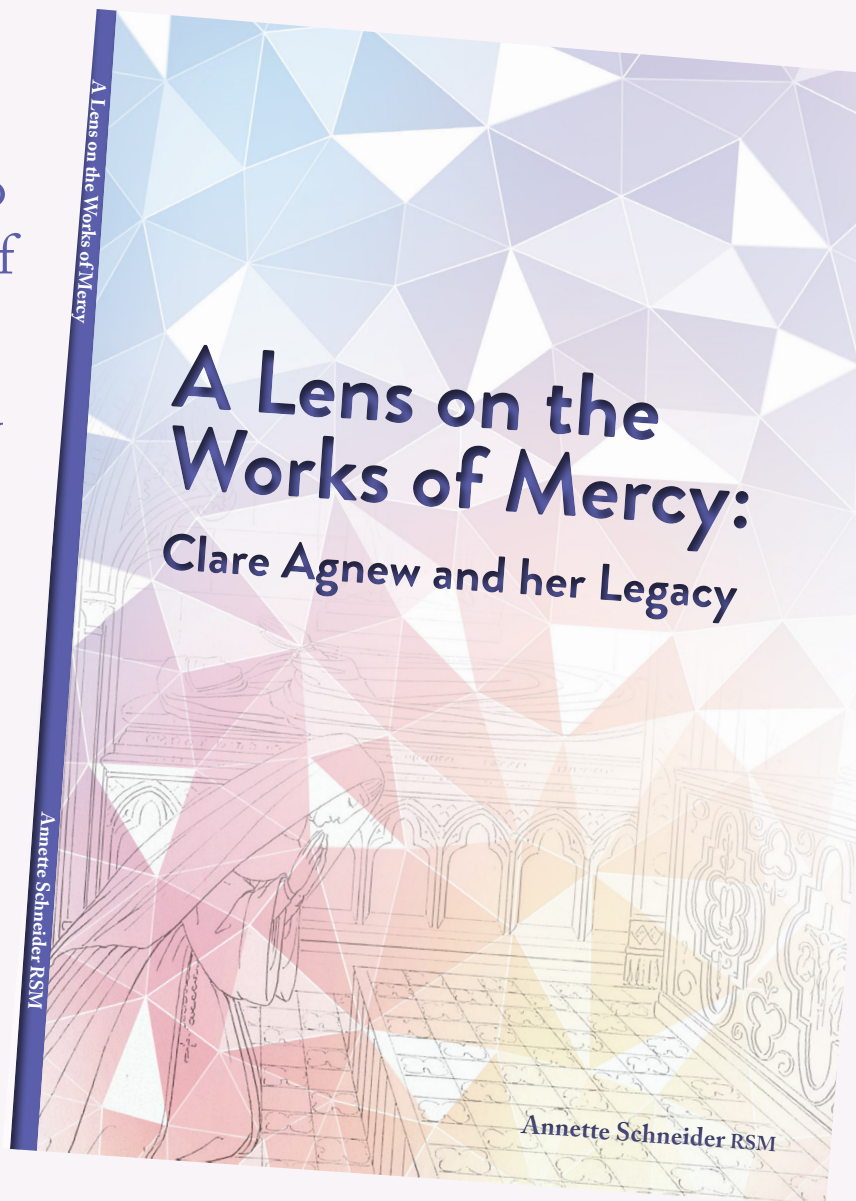
Who was Clare Agnew?

What is the background to her sketches of the works of mercy?

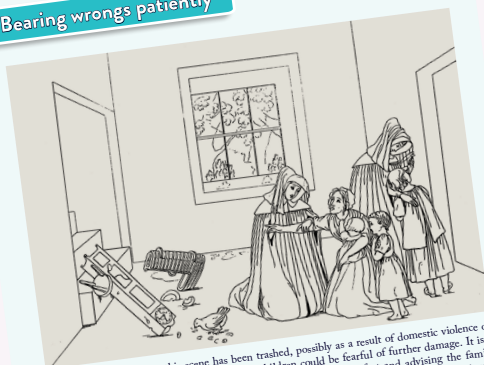
What do these sketches say to us today?

How can they be used for contemplation and action?

Annette Schneider RSM explores all these questions and more in this inspirational and informative 72-page book "*A Lens on the Works of Mercy: Clare Agnew and her Legacy*". The book is the culmination of a research project undertaken in 2019 at Mercy International Centre, Dublin.



Bearing wrongs patiently



The room in this scene has been trashed, possibly as a result of domestic violence or robbery, and the woman and her children could be fearful of further damage. It is a stressful situation. Perhaps the Sisters are offering comfort and advising the family about steps they can take to ensure their safety. You can imagine the Sisters keeping in regular contact until the family members are settled again.

Behind the scene

The controversy over the appointment of a chaplain for the House of Mercy during the latter part of 1837 was a great trial for Catherine McAuley. Sullivan (2004, p. 94) records that "in September a deep conflict arose between her and Dr Walter Meyer, parish priest of St Andrew's church, over his unwillingness to assign a regular chaplain to serve the sacramental needs of the homeless women and girls sheltered in the House of Mercy on Baginbun Street... but the bitterness she [Catherine] felt at the injustice of the chaplaincy controversy was a new kind of suffering for her; it was assuaged only with prayer, effort on her part and the support and counsel of friends."

Even though she thought of herself as lacking patience and prayed for "the virtue and divine gift of patience" (Sullivan, 2012, p. 153), Catherine seems to have been a most resilient woman in the face of many obstacles and stressful situations.

Cost: €14.00 per book

(plus postage of up to €6.00 per book).

For teachers: A Learning and Teaching Guide is available for download on the website (www.mercyworld.org)

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