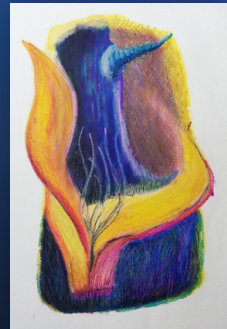


‘The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and, therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge.’

(Pope Francis, Laudato Si’ #80)



‘May the wisdom that inspired our ancestors of old to align their lives with the Sun and rhythms of Earth enable us to experience the radiance of harmony and delight in the oneness of all life.’

- Nellie McLaughlin rsm

Left: *Out of Wonder*, Oonagh Campbell rsm

‘We, this people,
on this small and
drifting planet...’

- Maya Angelou. Read by Janna Levin

‘As we expand our identity as humans to embrace every other life form, each a unique manifestation of divine art, what will emerge? An overwhelming sense of the oneness of all life will transform us.’

- Nellie McLaughlin rsm

‘We know that God sustains the cosmos every moment of every day. We read in Lamentations (3:22-23),
“The steadfast love of our God never ceases. God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.”’

- Elizabeth Davis rsm

‘What is too good for us to keep to ourselves?’

- Guiding Group

‘Mercy is the very heartbeat of God resonant in creation; the warmth that pulses through all things as the divine Mystery flows out into created form.’

(Cynthia Bourgeault)

The Helix or “Eye of God” Nebula: NASA, WIYN, NOAO, ESA, Hubble Helix Nebula Team, M. Meixner (STScI), & T. A. Rector (NRAO).

‘Walking with people of faith seeking understanding and meaning today, as a catechist, I share in the creative work of God, leading people out of darkness into light, out of the slavery of literalism into the freedom of the daughters and sons of God, out of fear into wonder and awe.’

- Anne Walsh

‘a flaring forth
one infinite moment
timing delicate, precise
holding all that is to come
a journey, epic ... begun
God’s self-revelation ... begun

encounters cataclysmic
stars, galaxies, planets
forming, re-forming
expanding outward
ever outward
magnitude beyond imagining’

- Maree Hutchinson rsm

‘God has “mercified”
the universe into
being.’

(Ibn al- Arabi)

‘At the heart of the work of Mercy Global Action is a deep commitment to reflect on and understand the impact of our “worldview” on the way we respond to global injustice.’

- Angela Reed rsm

‘Resonance ~ Resistance ~ Resilience’

- Guiding Group (Judy Cannato)



COSMOS/
COSMOLOGY

Voices, Quotes and Images from Theme 1, Segment 1: Global
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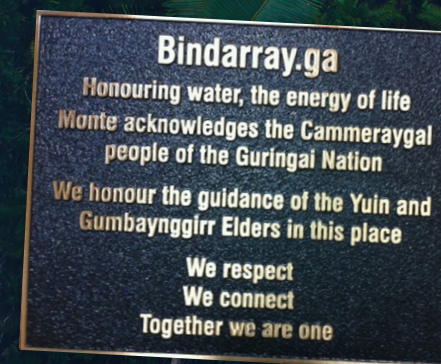


‘Let us never desire more than enough.’

(Catherine McAuley)

‘We respect. – We connect. – Together we are one.’

- Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison



‘The call for all of us globally to let go of any illusion that we human beings are separate from the planet’

- Angela Reed rsm

‘We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*’

(Laudato Si’ #49)

‘Living integral ecology through social and pastoral ministry, advocating for creation and human persons’

- Maryanne Kolkia rsm

‘My own personal, intimate relationship with Earth – Where do my feet touch Earth in these days?’

- Elizabeth Davis rsm

‘Presence of a God who dances in creation’

- Anne Curtis rsm

‘Embrace an ecological conversion and grow into an “Enough Theology”’

- Mary Sullivan rsm

‘How am I personally challenged in my care for Earth by Pope Francis, by the IPCC, by the Synod for the Amazon, by Greta Thunberg?’

- Guiding Group

“‘Ko te whenua te toto o te tangata, Land is the life-blood of the people”

Papatūānuku Mother Earth is the earth that we live upon. Not only is she the land we walk upon, she is also the life within the land. Everything is linked to the land...

(Warren Pohatu)

‘I have a passion for deepening my understanding of the interconnectedness of all creation’

- Tara Egger

‘We tune our ears to the wisdom of Earth. It is deep prayer, this listening to her cries.’

(Bruce Sanguin)

‘My relationship with God’s creation is one of wonder, respect and comfort, and I never feel so alive as when I am interacting with the Earth.’

(Cate Kelly)

‘Today Mercy is committed to preserving the integrity of creation, Papatūānuku ~ Mother Earth, seeing human beings as connected and dependent on all living species.’

- Margaret Milne rsm,
Cheryl Connelly rsm,
Teresa Anderson rsm

‘Synod on the Amazon listening to indigenous voices everywhere’

- Guiding Group



‘God speaks to us through two books. One is the little book, the book of scripture. The other is the big book, the book of creation.’

(John Scotus Eriugena)

Left: Getty Images/Andreas Solaro. Used under licence



EARTH AND INTEGRAL ECOLOGY



‘We are the first group of humans to experience six generations of people living at the same time, each generation formed with different values.’

- Elizabeth Davis rsm

‘In the diversity of peoples who experience the gift of God, each in accordance with its own culture, the Church expresses her genuine catholicity and shows forth the “beauty of her varied face”.’

(Joy of the Gospel #116)

‘Power of education to transform society.’

- Ailish O'Brien rsm



Image: istockphoto.com

‘The character of children can develop through the positive influence of a confident teacher whose behaviour can be emulated by the children and inspire them towards meaningful lives.’

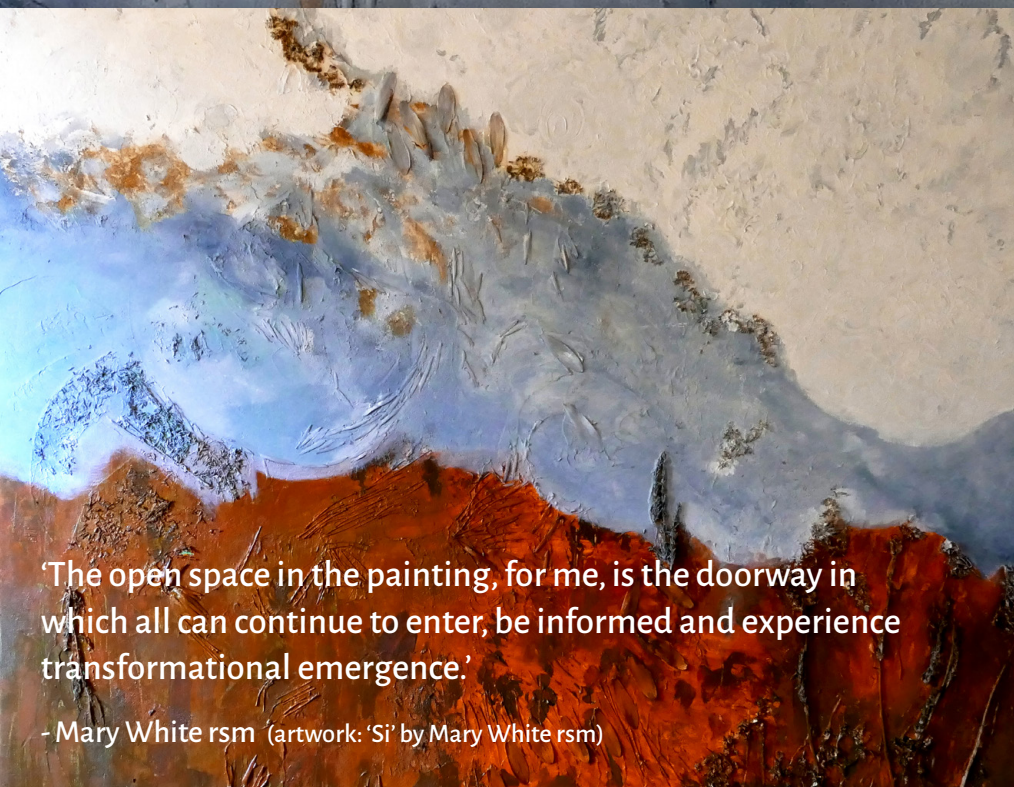
(John Dau)

‘What are the important social markers for me of this age in which we live?’

- Guiding Group

‘Worldwide movement (The Shift) to provide a platform to unite and amplify support for the right to housing, to change the conversation, and to encourage government engagement and action.’

- Angela Reed rsm



‘The open space in the painting, for me, is the doorway in which all can continue to enter, be informed and experience transformational emergence.’

- Mary White rsm (artwork: ‘Si’ by Mary White rsm)

Agency ~ Access ~ Action

- Julia Upton rsm

‘Ministry of “courteous presence”: in scenes of wretched poverty, Catherine saw only the person.’

- Susan Browne rsm

‘The Aboriginal word, *Dadirri*, a process of deep and respectful listening to build community.’

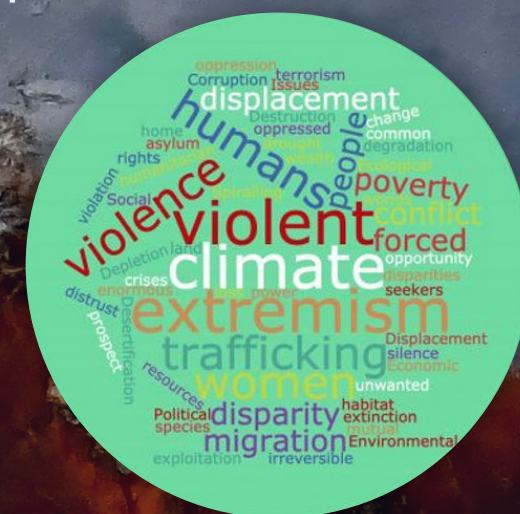
- Carmel McDonough rsm

‘Bring forth the city of God.’

(Marty Haugen)

‘In what ways can I continue to help shape a world which responds to “the cry of Earth and the cry of the Poor”?’

- Guiding Group



PEOPLE AND DEEP SOCIAL CHANGE



‘Each major faith tradition holds that mercy is essential to its life, requires many words to reflect its depth, is a name for God, is one of the qualities of God lived by people every day, and is integrally connected to creation and to Earth.’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



‘From within our “house of faith,” we are encouraged to reach out to intentionally and sympathetically interact with other systems of theological belief. If we do so, we open up the possibility of a richer appreciation of our own house of faith.’

-Peta Goldberg rsm

‘My mercy embraces all things.’

(Quran 7:156)

‘Indigenous people tell us that we are losing the sense of the sacredness of all life and that, from the magnitude of the desecration, damage and destruction of our planet, we have moved beyond climate change to fears for survival.’

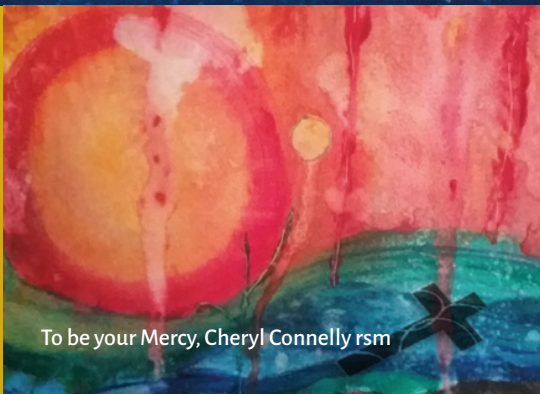
-Mary Tee rsm



Table of Mercy, Anne Reddington rsm

‘This is Mercy, this is *whakawhanaungatanga* right relationship which we are all called to as the whole human family together.’

-Bridget Crisp rsm



To be your Mercy, Cheryl Connelly rsm

‘Who are we if not kin?’

Where is the Table where we could sit together?

See us – the different – sitting as one,

Halo-ed and held by our only common identity: ‘HUMAN’,

By our one shared place – this green but groaning Earth...’

-Maureen Murphy rsm



St. Saviour's College, Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia

‘St Saviour's is a richly diverse community which clearly has faith, traditions, and mercy at the heart. The inclusive nature of the school ensures that a lived faith experience is provided, and each student is valued for the unique contribution they make.’

-Sharon Collins, St. Saviour's College

‘We promote training and analysis of the reality on the issues of anti-racism, non-violence, extractivism and human trafficking. We seek to maintain a fluid communication between us as a team, with the whole community and the Institute, in order to influence personal, community and social transformation.’

-CCASA Prophetic Voice Commission



MERCY AND FAITH TRADITIONS



“Deep incarnation” is a new theological expression, the coming-into-flesh of God's eternal Word – not only human flesh but flesh that is the life in all creation.’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm

‘We good women, women of Mercy, are invited to be midwives of the birth of our God in our community living, in our ministry, in our advocacy for women and children, in our care for Earth.’

-Elizabeth Marrie rsm

‘While the invitation to ‘go out into the deep’ helps us to expand our consciousness of the evolving cosmos and its creator, there is also a sense in which we have “come from the deep”. We are intimately connected to “the deep”.’

-Elizabeth Dowling rsm

‘We do need to be scrupulous about the “throw away” mentality/ culture in our concern for Mother Earth, our common home, as part of the cosmos where God Incarnate in the person of Jesus dwells, especially among the least of our brethren. Enough is just what we need.’

-Margaret Mary Alamban rsm

‘As people of Mercy and people of faith, we are challenged to both cry out against oppressive systems and to contemplate the Cosmic Christ who dwells amongst us and fills us with hope.’

-Angela Reed rsm



The Compassionate Heart of the Cosmos, Corlita Bonnarens rsm

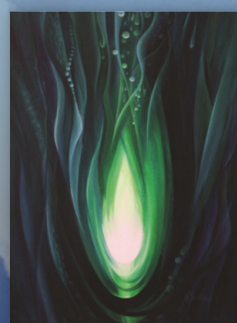
‘How do I now understand God's intimate presence in all creation?’

-Guiding Group

‘An incarnational worldview is the only way we can reconcile our inner worlds with the outer one, unity with diversity, physical with spiritual, individual with corporate and divine with human.’

(Richard Rohr)

The Nativity, Mary Clare Augustine Moore rsm © MIA



‘The radical divine reach in Christ through human flesh comes all the way down into the living web of organic life.’

(Elizabeth Johnson)

Left: *Into the Deep*, © Mary Southard csj

‘May you open ever more deeply to Incarnate God in Cosmos and indeed to Incarnate God's Presence in all beings! May Mercy flow to you from our brothers and sisters in the kindom!’

- Mary Pendergast rsm

‘We carry within us the precious gold of life, the sacred fragrance of God, the healing salve of love. Let us live it together.’

(John Philip Newell)



INCARNATE GOD IN COSMOS AND IN PERSON OF JESUS

Voices, Quotes and Images from Theme 4, Segment 1: Global
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‘If the defacement of the poor is a defacement of God, in the same way a defacement of Earth is a defacement of God... From now on, caring for the environment has to be understood as being at the core of what mercy is, of what mercy asks us to do.’

-Carmody Grey

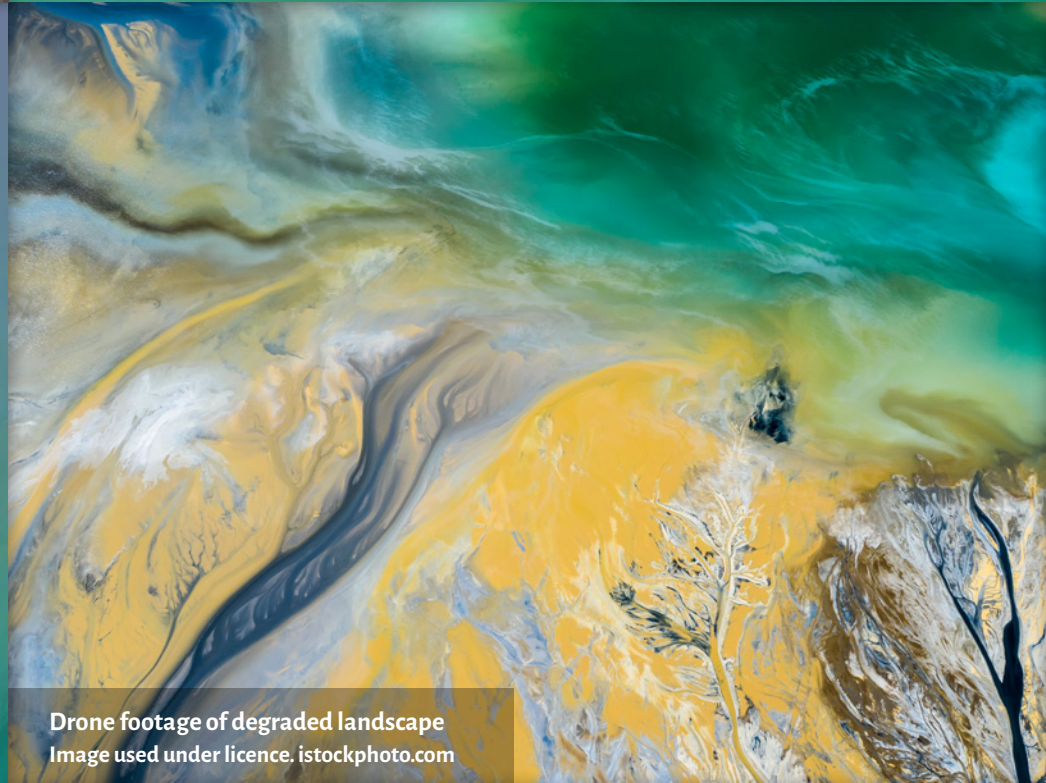


‘The degradation of Earth led to a three-layered emergency visible in global climate change, approaching tipping points of ecosystems (Amazon, Arctic, Australia, and Antarctic), and the unprecedented threat of biodiversity loss and habitat destruction.’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm

‘Young people, so aware of the environment and the importance of maintaining it, respecting it, and allowing the flora and fauna time to regenerate – Who will speak for the environment if you don’t?’

-Gabrielle Scanlon,
Our Lady of Mercy College,
Parramatta



‘Through these two aspects of living Mercy, the ‘practical-active’ and the ‘reflective-spiritual’, we can make a committed and integrated response to healing the degradation of Earth and its creatures and, in so doing, heal our human community.’

-Adele Howard rsm

‘I am uneasy with the statement that Earth is degraded. She has been “Good” for nearly 14 billion years, gracefully orbiting a benevolent star, open to whatever comes next. We are learning from birds and beasts, and presently an invisible virus, how to belong and behave here. Just maybe we will learn to live out the sacred song inside us — the same catchy tune that fills the violet and the tree frog with the will and un-degradable gift of being alive.’

-Mary Bilderback rsm



“‘We are in Need of Respirators Urgently!’ Thus Cry Out the Oceans of the World’

-Margie Abbott rsm

‘The impact on the planet as seen through the works of mercy – hunger of people and other species, water scarcity for many, washed clothing polluting oceans, housing a human right, the sickness that is COVID-19, imprisonment for climate justice, burial rituals during a pandemic, planetary health.’

-Bridget Crisp rsm

‘The land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing.’

(Hos 4:3)



MERCY AND DEGRADATION OF EARTH



‘What a paradox life is! They (our migrant brothers and sisters) left, fleeing hunger and misery, and now a virus, miniscule in size, has the capacity to paralyze the entire world; questioning all of the comforts of a minority of the world's population that has believed it had the power to possess life.’

-Carmen Rosa Callomamani rsm



The Future is in Our Hand (Joel Bergner)
Used with permission



Reclaiming Place: Continuing the Story (Margaret Smith rsm)

‘Maku e ki atu, he aha te mea nui o te ao? He Tangata, he Tangata, he Tangata. You ask, what is the most important thing in the world? It is People, it is People, it is people.’ (Maori Proverb)

-Malia Fetuli rsm



Homeless Christ (Timothy P. Schmalz). Sculpture in front of St James' Church, Sydney.
Image used under licence. Shutterstock.com

‘Among the many displaced persons within and outside our countries are refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, homeless or precariously housed persons, those with cognitive impairments, those who are trafficked, persons subjected to domestic violence, and elders in long term care facilities.’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm

‘Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it.’

(Jer 6:16)



Kids at a refugee camp in Azez, Syria in May 2019.
Image used under licence. Shutterstock.com

‘In the midst of this dramatic situation of COVID-19, which has “displaced” so much in our lives and in our world, we may have difficulty seeing, feeling and hearing the effects of this resurrection. This context reminds us of something we already know and which we too often forget: that it is the crucified one who is the risen one. The word of God comes to aid our fragile memory.’

-Sheila Curran rsm



This is "Good Friday 2020" (Vyacheslav Okun sj)

chapter 6:
i have hopes of a new story being born
with prevention, protection and prosecution at its core
and with jubilation i will shout
I'M NOT FOR SALE ANY MORE!
the body holds the story

(Margie Taylor rsm)



Our Lady of Mercy in Pandemic Times,
Artist unknown

‘This story [of the Canaanite woman – Matt 15:21-28] sets forth who Jesus is as the Christ, the anointed one who reveals in painful human interactions what God is like. And that awareness and transformation in the very human Jesus came as a result of the actions of one of the poorest of the poor, the outcast, the ‘other’. Through this profound encounter, both Jesus and she were liberated.’

-Margaret Hinchey rsm



MERCY AND DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS



‘Together we rejoice in the God who creates and cares, in the God who dwells among us, in the God who calls us into relationship, in the God who is with us, in the God who suffers with us, in the God who is love, in the God who walks with us now and forever.’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



Carolynne, Sr. Agnes and Mr. Mutua (Kenya)

‘Every year, the Maasai Mara, known for its large population of lions, leopards, cheetahs, elephants and millions of herbivores, host over 300,000 domestic and international tourists. No single tourist has visited the Mara in more than 60 days since the pandemic began. Therefore, the animals are at peace.’

-Agnes Hunter rsm



‘Covid-19 has highlighted systemic injustices, inequality, and marginalization but it has also drawn us, individually and collectively, into the presence of God.’

-Amanda Carrier rsm

‘Pour out your hearts like water before the presence of the Lord!’

(Lam 2:19)



‘A spiral represents God in this painting, to echo the spirals used by some of the first peoples of the world - the Maoris, the Indigenous peoples of Australia and some Native American tribes - to represent the Divine in their art.’

-Marilyn Browne rsm



‘Awareness of the presence of God fills Julian of Norwich with joy, desire, hope and love. Lord, we pray that, seeking wisdom from her we may make your presence in our daily lives more conscious and vibrant.’

- Josephine Davies rsm and Cathy Edge rsm



‘Opening to the grace of presence involves three stages: vulnerability, revelation, and resiliency.’

-Mary-Paula Cancienne rsm



‘We grew up in Ireland in an environment of Celtic Spirituality, in which God was not removed from the world and the lives of human beings, but was hallowed. God was all around – in the landscape of sea and mountain, bog and forest, in the rising and setting sun, in the comings and goings of the seasons.’

-Maura Walsh rsm



PRESENCE OF, TO AND WITH GOD



‘In light of the present needs of God's people, where are you noticing new ways of serving in Mercy either bubbling up or actually flowering? In light of all that you have reflected on, to what ministerial action does God seem to be inviting you now?’

-Mary Anne Nolan rsm



“We can't return to normal because the normal that we had was precisely the problem.”
Graffiti in Hong Kong

Image @elisegarciaop

‘There is no doubt where Mercy is calling us today. She is calling us together to help shape an integral and integrating vision, one which allows people in all their diversity to flourish and one which allows bioregions in all their diversity to flourish. We know where our new foundations must be!’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



Sunrise Coolangatta beach
Used under license. Istockphoto.com

**They said to each other,
“Were not our hearts
burning within us while
he was talking to us on the
road, while he was opening
the scriptures to us?”**

Lk 24:32



Catherine McAuley rose, Anne Walsh

‘Whānau Mercy has become an important phrase for describing Mercy's extended family, in which sisters and their partners in ministry, their students, staff and volunteers are able to rejoice in sharing the one and same charism, handed down from Catherine McAuley by the pioneer sisters who brought the seed of Mercy to these shores and planted it in the lives of all those they touched, especially through their ministries of education, healthcare and community service.’

-Dennis Horton

‘This response requires imagination and relationships – relationships with young people crying out for climate justice, with racial and ethnic minorities seeking equity, with indigenous peoples seeking protection of their land and way of life, with immigrants seeking rights and dignity. It requires casting aside old thinking grounded in slavery, suspicion of newcomers, considering natural resources as objects for exploitation.’

-Marianne Comfort

‘Hurra for foundations, makes the old young and the young merry’

-Catherine McAuley to Cecilia Marmion, 1841

Good Reading: “What is the meaning of the great stop, the apausalypse?”
by Andri Snær Magnason and Anní Ólafsdóttir

“‘Acting in solidarity with impoverished peoples” challenges Mercy Focus on Haiti to listen to the people of Haiti, to take direction from them, to work beside them in addressing their needs. All are sharing the desire to create conditions for them to thrive.’

Members of Mercy Focus on Haiti
(Kathryn Gauthier, Jane M Heil, Kathy Thornton rsm,
Maureen Falcon, Kathy Roeder,
Dale Jarvis rsm)



Plastic Coated, Sophie Snowball

‘We urgently need a humanism capable of bringing together the different fields of knowledge, including economics, in the service of a more integral and integrating vision.’

-Laudato Si, #141

‘Religious life as we have known it may be over so the title *New Foundations in Mercy* demands a new perspective. I see it as new connections in mercy in the context of the charism of mercy. My experience of being in school has taught me much of how that charism is lived out. The multiplicity of kind acts that occur on a daily basis; the words of affirmation; the looking out for the lost and sometimes very broken in our midst and the ownership of who we are as a school in the mercy tradition.’

-Anne Maria O'Carroll rsm



NEW FOUNDATIONS IN MERCY

Voices, Quotes and Images from Theme 4, Segment 2: Mercy
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‘We are present in community, alongside other creatures, with whom we have more in common than what differentiates us, and from that stance we are present in community with the living and loving God and impelled to act ethically for the whole community.’

-Mary Tinney rsm



‘While there are many plights that can cause us unrest, one of the most common is the call to protect the earth.’

-Dominique Marendy

‘During wildfires, despite mass devastation to life, nutrients from the dead trees are returned to the soil...This is our call. To be present to Earth and be reborn from the ashes in ways that are inclusive and ensure the flourishing of Earth.’

-Colleen Swain



‘This is a wonderfully exciting time for a biologist, specifically a plant ecologist like me, who needs to be outside... Earth ‘creatures’ are re-awakening and new lives are emerging at an ever-increasing rate each day. Those of us who were trained to observe the world around us can't bear to be inside, away from our DNA kin.’

-Michael Gross



‘Hear the sound of the Conch Shell – a call for us to be still and attend to the Presence of Earth within and around us. Listen to the sound of your breath, The Earth is present. Look within us, The Earth is present. Listen to the sound of the sea, The Earth is present. Listen to the whispering sounds of the winds, The Earth is present. Listen to the birds singing, The Earth is present. Look...’

-Judith Moroney rsm, Paula Anamani rsm & Cheryl Connelly rsm

‘Earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love.’

(Ps 119:67)

“A 2020 Vision” (excerpt)

‘NOW is our jump time.

As we emerge from this strangely surreal time
The quality of our **presence to earth**
May well determine whether we earthlings
Make it through this jump time...
May we learn to communicate with
The consciousness of Earth
And all sentient beings.’

-Carmel Bracken rsm

‘Indigenous peoples who, while diverse in their lifestyles, in their cultures and in their spiritualities, all hold in common their interconnectedness with Earth.’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



PRESENCE TO EARTH

Voices, Quotes and Images from Theme 2, Segment 3: Presence
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'In our lives of service and in our relationships with one another, we are agents of God's merciful presence to one another... We pray for the grace of personal transformation through this crisis – may we use this time of lockdown and solitude to look at ourselves, review our attitudes and reassess our priorities.'

-Michelle Goh rsm (frontline worker)

'Human beings must feel that they are sons and daughters of the rainbow, those who translate this divine covenant with all the beings existing and living, with new relationships of kindness, compassion, cosmic solidarity, and deep reverence for the mystery that each one bears and reveals.'

-Leonardo Boff (*Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*)

'This year the pandemic is affecting every person, especially those living in poverty and sleeping on our streets. Believing that each of us is an image of God, we can say that Jesus continues to be homeless today in our towns and cities and we are faced with the question, "Can we pass them by and ignore their plight?"'

-Marie O'Dea rsm



Artwork by Michael G Pacto rsm, Philippines

'Doing justice in ministry, loving kindness in community and walking humbly with God for both ministry and community, are a simple and vibrant expression of right relationships among humans and with their God.'

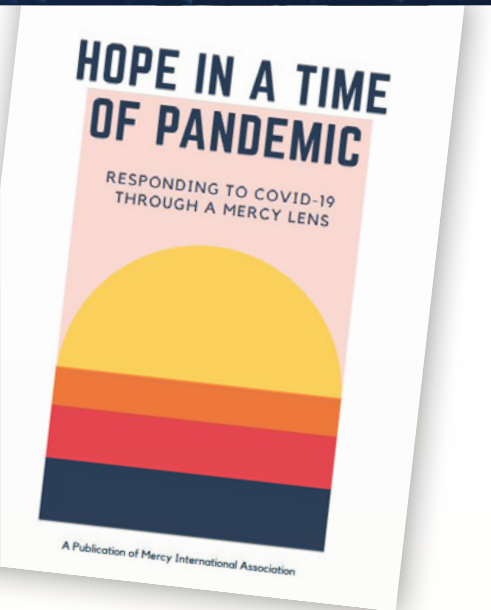
-Elizabeth Davis rsm

'What does the Lord require of you, O mortal, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?'

(Micah 6:8)

'A time to share the passion of Catherine to bring mercy to the needy; A time to embrace in our hearts those neglected, displaced, and experiencing uncertainty, anxiety and fears; A time to welcome the homeless, hungry and lowly; A time to hear the cry of the voiceless and those aiming to end violence and racism; A time to stand firm in the truth of the gospels, and a time to promote justice and peace; A time to renew our hearts A time to recognize and respect the sacredness of your creation A time to celebrate your mercy and love.'

-Marian Ladrera rsm



'Hope in a Time of Pandemic: Responding to COVID-19 Through a Mercy Lens has revealed a "pandemic of kindness", demonstrating the human capacity for transformation and calling forth great acts of resilience, kindness and creativity. In a world plagued by poverty, racism, sexism, xenophobia, and other forms of systemic marginalization, Mercy ministries exemplify a culture of encounter that emphasizes the dignity and rights of all people, and works to reduce social, economic and political inequalities.'

-Cecilie Kern

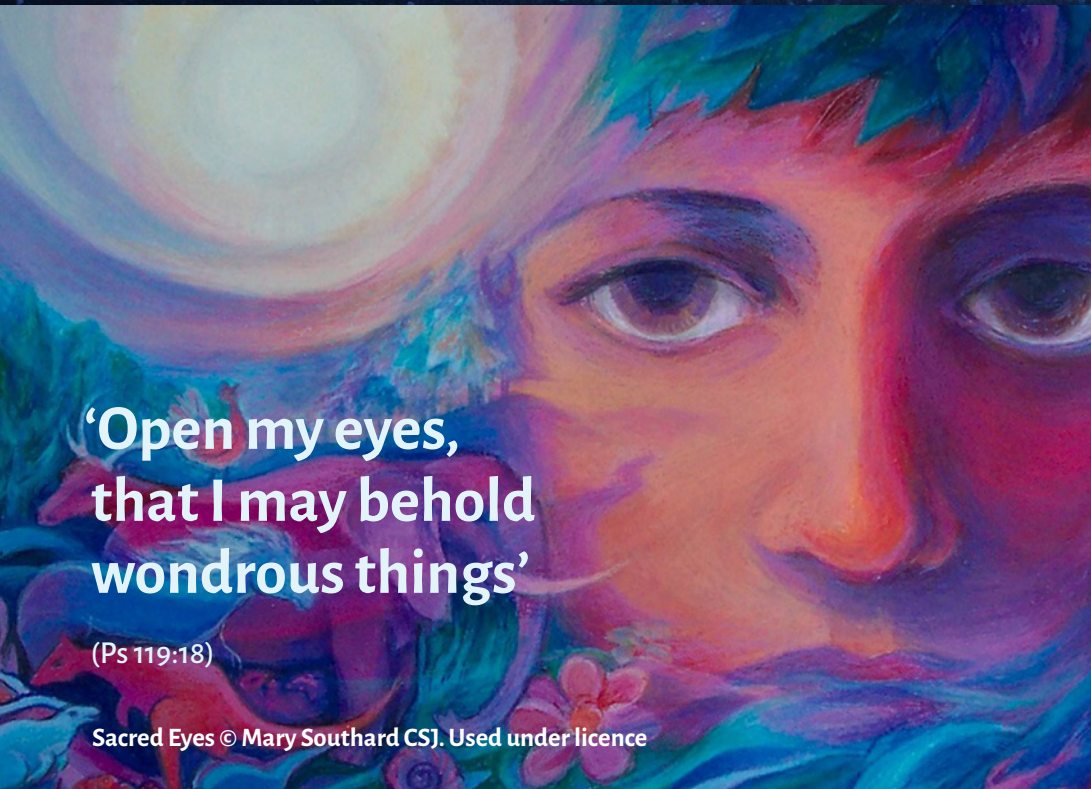


Glasgow Homeless Jesus After Storm Ciara by Galina Walls.
www.galinawallsphotography.co.uk



PRESENCE IN COMMUNITY AND IN MINISTRY





‘Open my eyes,
that I may behold
wondrous things’

(Ps 119:18)

Sacred Eyes © Mary Southard CSJ. Used under licence

‘No wonder of it: sheer plod makes plough down sillion
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion.’

(The Windhover, Gerard Manley Hopkins)

‘Hopkins invites us to a contemplative seeing of earth and our place in it, a seeing with our feet on the ground and a ‘faith with eyes wide open.’ *The Windhover* invites us to seeing and hearing with the whole self. With the little kestrel, we are inserted into the noble passion of creation that mimes variously the Creator’s own passion in Christ.’

-Jo O'Donovan rsm



Kestrel (Windhover)

‘Contemplative Seeing ~ The Opening of Eyes – from Sight to Insight There is nothing else we have to do right now – other than to fall into deeper and deeper stillness. *Visio Divina* – Allowing God to speak to speak to you through images.’

-Valda Dickinson rsm



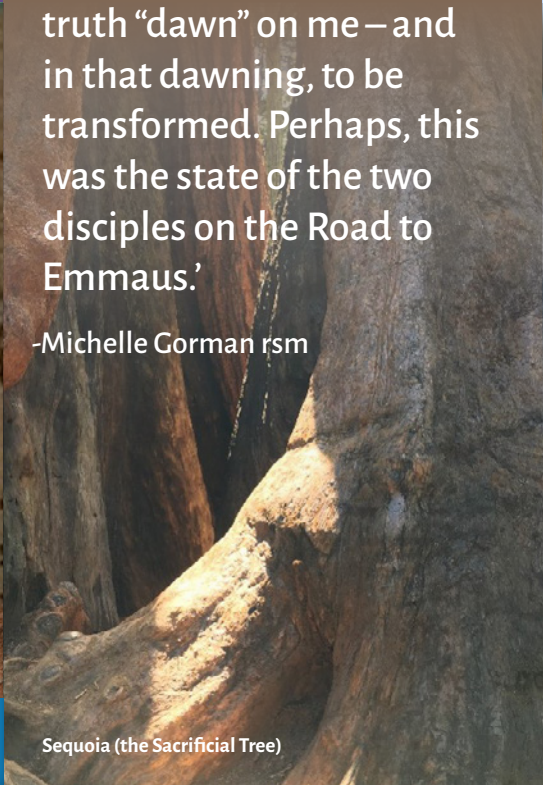
‘Looking through the eyes of love: Embrace with Mercy and Hope’, by Ma. Victoria Pederanga

‘It is a gift to see beyond the first level of sight, to see beyond appearances into the heart of what is perceived. Contemplative seeing does that. It leads us beyond the surface into meaning. It moves us into the revelatory moment of sight. It is the experience of living sacramentality.’

-Mary Katherine Doyle rsm

‘Contemplative seeing is the willingness to sit in the dark and let the truth reveal itself to my inner and outer eyes without my need to control the outcome – to let the truth “dawn” on me – and in that dawning, to be transformed. Perhaps, this was the state of the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus.’

-Michelle Gorman rsm



Sequoia (the Sacrificial Tree)

‘If we were to create a word cloud to describe contemplation, it would include the words seeing, eyes, heart, stillness, silence, presence, listening, openness.’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



‘This time of “pause” is an invitation from God to look at our lives, to see and believe that what matters most is to trust fully in God’s divine providence.’

-Maria Teresa Retana rsm

‘Ring out the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That’s how the light gets in.’

(Anthem, Leonard Cohen)



CONTEMPLATIVE SEEING





‘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
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‘If I were a mirror I would want to reflect...
The compassionate heart; the God within
If I were a mirror I would be
a reflection of a compassionate heart
Wrapping around the you looking untiringly at me.’

-Larretta Rivera-Williams rsm



‘Pa Henare Tate, Fr Henare Tate mihi atu koe e pa – who
has since passed, spoke of aroha or love and compassion
as being in the presence of the breath of God. A
compassionate heart, and in Māori belief, aroha, happens
in the presence of people with the presence of the spirit.’

-Richard Kerr-Bell

‘The winds, the earthquakes, and
the fires of our world do indeed
render compassion a gentle
and soft whisper sometimes...
In the midst of global conflicts,
wars, disasters, and inequalities,
the spirit of Mercy is rooted
in simple hospitality: a
comfortable cup of tea. And
yet, this tender act is a force to
reckon with. In the simplest
and humblest act is where true
power lies, and many whispers
can become a chorus.’

-Julia Morisi

‘No less than two days after
the accident, Leila Abdullah
and her husband Danny,
at the site where their
children's lives had ended
so abruptly, opened their
hearts to the driver who by
his self-destructive actions
had wiped out half their
family. While dealing with
their unimaginable and
unfathomable loss, Danny
and Leila chose to forgive
Samuel Davidson.’

-Carmel McDonough rsm



Sculpture of Catherine McAuley at All Hallows' School, Brisbane
Sculptor: Meliesa Judge

‘The most frequent
phrase in the
Gospels is “Jesus was
moved with or filled
with compassion.”’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm

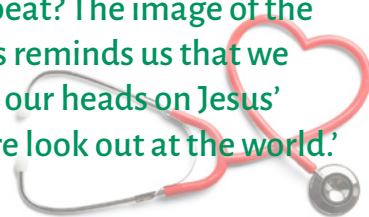
‘I have to kneel before the Father,
put my ear against his chest and
listen, without interruption to
the heartbeat of God. Then, and
only then, can I say carefully
and very gently what I hear.’

(Henri Nouwen)



‘Can you hear the heartbeat? Those words resonate deep within.
It is a question we all need to ask – and answer. How do you hear
a heartbeat? How do we hear God's heartbeat? The image of the
apostle John leaning on the breast of Jesus reminds us that we
are like the beloved disciple called to have our heads on Jesus’
breast to hear his heartbeat and from there look out at the world.’

-Sandra Lupi rsm



‘Oh, Mother Vincent Whitty, I wish you could see our girls today. As a
student body, they are fierce in their pursuit for Justice. Only today, I
heard two of our students call on a sea of their peers to speak out about
the treatment of women in society and to make it known that they will
not stand for violence against women. The cheers of response from the
audience must tell you that they stand united in this, still, all these years
later, as you and your Sisters did.’

-Steph Langley, on the 160th Anniversary of All Hallows' School in Brisbane.

‘Having a compassionate heart means
allowing the heart to be touched profoundly
by identifying with the nameless ones,
allowing our vision to change us.’

(Howard Gray sj)



COMPASSIONATE HEART

Voices, Quotes and Images from Theme 2, Segment 4: Integrated
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'We are to be the mat carriers of the paralyzed, the coffin bearers in Nain, the arms on which the lame lean, those who listen to the mute and cry out for wider human listening, those who eat with and try to influence the tax collectors... the hands assisting the blind, the voices that encourage lepers to come forward, the boy who brings and shares his two fish, the Simons of Cyrene, the centurions who offer sponges soaked in wine. Through such mercying, we may slowly awaken ourselves and others from the harmful sleep of our inhumanity.'

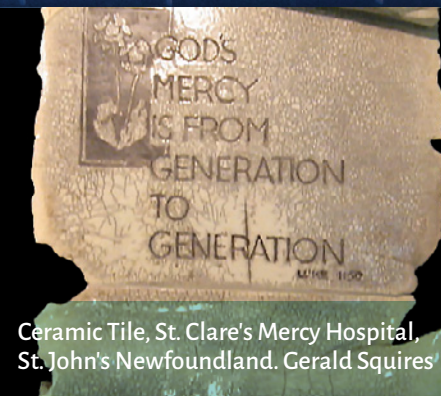
- Mary Sullivan rsm



Water pitcher from Newfoundland and Labrador by sculptor, Gerald Squires

'In all the voices – theologian, artist, distinct voice, scientist, minister, global thinker, prayer maker – which voice speaks most passionately to me about mercying?'

(Musing for the Journey)



Ceramic Tile, St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, St. John's Newfoundland. Gerald Squires



'Let us ask for the grace to become *witnesses of mercy*. Only in this way will our faith be alive and our lives unified. Only in this way will we proclaim the Gospel of God, which is the Gospel of mercy'

(Pope Francis)



Las Hermanas de la Misericordia de Terranova y Labrador viajando con Perú y su gente

Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland & Labrador journeying with Peru & people of Peru

'Mercying has a rhythm of breathing in, breathing out. Breathing in the mercy of God for us, and breathing out the mercy of God to the world. In our contemplative prayer we are being transformed into Mercy, and it spills forth into our relationships with all creation. Catherine McAuley spoke frequently of this relationship of being centered in God and the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy.'

- Jean Adam rsm & Carolyn McWatters rsm

'We look to the Scriptures to see what "mercying" means. In the Old Testament, in the book of Micah, the prophet invites us, "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Mic 6:8). In the New Testament, the good Samaritan teaches us, "He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him" (Lk 10:34). In the Hindu holy books, the Sanskrit word for mercy is दया (daya), in its literal meaning, "Suffering in the suffering of all beings."'

- Elizabeth Davis rsm

'The pandemic has increased the rates of crime and hunger in most towns of our country... "Mercying" is at risk, and a huge challenge and often becomes only a feeling at this time of the global pandemic in Papua New Guinea.'

- Theresia Tina rsm

'Mercying' is our daily gift and our daily challenge.'

- Elizabeth MacNeal

Mercy-ing



MERCYING

Voices, Quotes and Images from Theme 3, Segment 4: Integrated
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'Jesus invites all of us to "Go and do likewise" – to shape all around us a culture of mercy and compassion, to be clothed in compassion, to walk in the way of mercy as the principal path pointed out by Jesus, to be passionate about encountering others on the path to seeking peace, to live in the image of the One whose name is mercy.'

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



'One cannot think of creating circles and culture of mercy without reflecting on Pope Francis's image of the church as oriented towards missionary activities. It is crucial that we note that the missionary activity of the church is directed towards contemporary outskirts that strongly mark human existence. My ministry in South Sudan has opened my eyes and now I can see that outskirts are the new challenge for the church. Nevertheless, the church's main mission remains that of revealing more strongly signs of God's presence and closeness in the world.'

-Scholasticah Nganda rsm



Galilee Spirituality (Circle) Team, Sligo/Roscommon, Ireland

'Twenty years ago, a circle appeared on the Sligo/Roscommon border. It was a circle drawn on the face of lakes and mountains. Wisdom was present, the divine artisan, delighting in the human community making its foundation there. This circle has been a source of grace and protection for the people of the area over these years. The Mercy community has held and served the locality with creative, prayerful presence expressed in hospitality and opportunities to deepen and nourish the spirit.'

-Dr Anne Francis



We should be as the compass Our centre is God, from whom all our actions should spring from as their source ~ Catherine McAuley (Artwork by Tara Egger)

'Whenever I think of the word mercy, I think of the Hail Mary as it is sometimes prayed in Hebrew and Arabic. Blessed is the fruit of your womb. That word for womb, *rechem* or *raham*, shares the same linguistic root as *mercy* in both languages. Mercy is a womb. It is something that encloses us, keeps us safe, and more than that, it is the place where we are formed.'

-Dr. Victoria Biggs

'Like Catherine McAuley, let us gather in mission and prayer, inviting the fullness of the loving sphere of God awaiting an invitation to join our circles. Find your porch with friends, or circle of likeminded people knowing that the Spirit will engage in our global efforts to use our hands to do the works of mercy and our hearts to be compassion to and for our suffering world.'

-Tylia Barnes

'Encounter is in some ways, a proxy for "mercy" placing the emphasis on compassion rather than judgment. We are called to not only meet Christ in the poor, but that the poor perceive Christ in us and in our actions. By being rooted in Christ's personal experience we can contribute to a "culture of mercy" that deeply renews hearts and opens up to a new reality.'

-Sandra Lupi rsm

'Through the eyes of Mercy, with the hands of Mercy, with the voices of Mercy, in the spirit of Mercy we are emboldened to live our lives anew, in Mercy and Justice to heal a hurting world.'

-Timothy Sherlock (Song Commissioned by Sisters of Mercy Brisbane)

'The Samaritan's first response is not to do it alone but to create circles of mercy. The first circle he creates comes from Earth with the oil and wine, the fruits of the Earth. He then uses his animal to carry the injured man and the road to take him to the inn. The built environment of the inn also becomes part of that circle of mercy. And, finally, he trusts the inn keeper to continue the healing when he left.'

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



CREATING CIRCLES OF MERCY AND A CULTURE OF MERCY

