

‘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



‘My mercy embraces all things.’

(Quran 7:156)

‘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

‘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

‘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

Voices, Quotes and Images from Theme 1, Segment 2: Mercy
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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



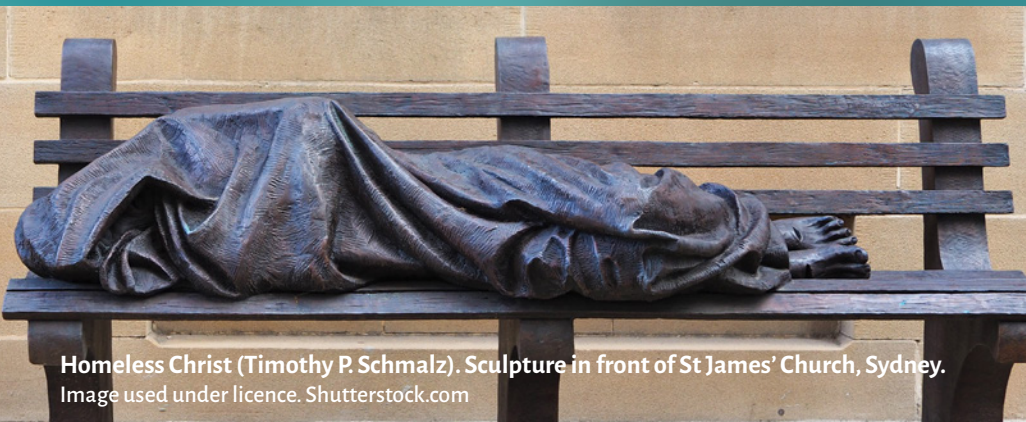
The Future is in Our Hand (Joel Bergner)
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Reclaiming Place: Continuing the Story (Margaret Smith rsm)

‘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 Azaz, 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

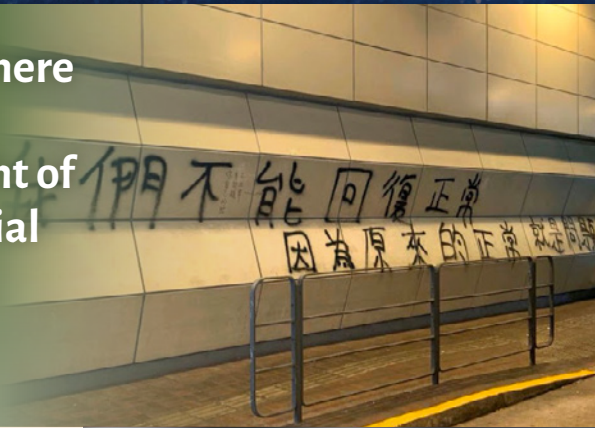


MERCY AND DISPLACEMENT OF PERSONS



‘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
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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

‘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



Catherine McAuley rose, Anne Walsh

‘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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