



*In prayer, Mercy education,
with and for one another*

December 2013

Thank you to all who have shared a prayer for this first online edition of "Come to the Table...in Prayer".

An invitation - click the link below and your prayer will be included in the next compilation of prayers.

Link:

<http://fs22.formsite.com/netmercyyed/prayerbook/index.html>



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With Gratitude

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Open Me To Your Presence



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Ever Present God, in the midst of the whirlwind of the activities of my day, open me to your presence within the hearts of those who are in front of me and within myself, that we might be in communion with you.

Amen.

As We Lead

Loving God, as administrators in Mercy Institutions, help us model our lives on your son Jesus Christ. May we remain faithful to the call to serve all of humanity, especially the poor and vulnerable, like Catherine McAuley did. Teach us to serve with love, mercy and justice. Help us to entrust our daily duties and responsibilities to you. Loving God, give us patience. Help us to give without counting the cost or the benefits that may come to us, recognizing that we can always do more, we can always touch another life. Cause our Mercy Sisters, administrators, board members, council members and all those who exercise leadership to be always mindful of what you have called them to do, and having done all know, "It is not enough". Loving God, may we never tire of praying and serving you in each other. Cause us, God, to take delight in you and the hope of one day being with you for eternity.

On This Anniversary



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Loving God, We praise and thank You for blessing our Community as we celebrate _____ years of commitment to the education of young Mercy women (and men and children). We thank you for guiding our ministry as we bring the gifts of service, knowledge, compassion, faith and love to those whom we serve. May these gifts remain a part of Mercy forever. We are grateful for those who came before us and on whose shoulders we stand today. Hold our Mercy community in the palm of Your hand and allow us to remain powerful in spirit and forever faithful to Mary our Patroness and Catherine our Foundress. We ask all through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Hard Day, Lord

Lord, my (our) life is filled with difficulties this day. It's been hard to handle all that has been given me (us), so I (we) turn to you full of confidence that you are present and that with your grace I (we) will find my (our) way back to joy. Like Catherine I (we) know that joys and sorrows are mingled. We place our weary hearts in your hands, now and forever. Amen.



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End of a Day of Good Work



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The day is done. The projects finished. The talks given and we stop and pause... Our work is the blessing of God. Yet we know learning continues. We keep on going, for we know, like Catherine, that "it is never enough."

Tomorrow is another day to serve you, Lord; another day to give our all. Lord we ask you to bless us in this moment so that your grace will carry us into another day of Mercy. Amen.

Mercy es

Misericordia es vivir todos los días, poniendo en la vida el corazón, en ésta vida habitada por latidos, que se empapan de alegría y de dolor. Misericordia es prestar cada momento, el silencio, nuestro oído, nuestra voz, es robar de las entrañas de Dios Padre, su locura, su cariño, su pasión. Misericordia es dejar que se traduzca, esos gestos, esas miradas de Dios, es el canto de aquel que se levanta, porque otro junto a él se inclinó. Misericordia es lo que atraviesa, al Evangelio, a María, a nuestro hoy, y muchos que se vieron traspasados, no pudieron acallar tremendo Don. Quisiera sumarme a éstos locos que te buscan a destajo y con ardor, que se atreven a andar toda la vida, siguiendo la intuición del corazón. quisiera vivir ya de tal manera. que se entrelace mi vida con tu Voz, y si alguien buscara comprenderlo, "misericordia" sea la única razón. por eso Dios de la Misericordia, Padre Nuestro, "Tata", "Abba", "Señor", esculpí bien profundo en nosotros, ése sueño de ser Cómo Vos sos. (o bien de ser con Vos Pasión). Amén.

Translation follows

Mercy Means

Mercy means living every day putting our heart in life, this life inhabited by beats that are soaked up with joy and sorrow. Mercy means lending every moment our silence, our ear, our voice. It means stealing from our Father God's insides His love, His passion. Mercy is letting those gestures, those looks of God's be translated. It is the song of he who gets up because someone else has bent down next to him. Mercy is what pierces the Gospel, Mary, our today, and the many who were pierced and could not silence such gift. I'd like to join those crazy people who look for You relentlessly and with ardor, who dare go through life following the intuition of the heart. I'd like to live in such a way that my life was entwined with "Your Voice", that if anyone tried to understand it, "Mercy" would be the only reason. That is why, "God of Mercy", "Our father", "Tata", "Abba" and "Lord", carve deeply in us this dream of being passion with you.

When We Meet

Lord our Board (or -----) is meeting today (tonight). We have so many decisions to make. We ask your help to be united in a common goal, leaving our attitudes, pet projects, and egos at the door so we walk forward with hearts open to change, to all that will be the best for our school, and to your Spirit's promptings. May your blessing and favor descend on us and our students. Amen.



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Before Beginning the Day



(c) Mommamoon/Dreamstime.com

Before Beginning the Day... Lord as we “trip about” our day we are conscious of your generous grace that asks us to be at this () knowing you are always with us. Bless this () as we go about the business of this day. We ask this with full confidence through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Morning Prayer



Mary Lou Hogan, RSM, artist

As I begin each day, may my prayer and focus be on being faithful in service to our students, parents, faculty, administrators and board members. Lord, please help me to accept human beings as they are, not to expect perfection; to recognize ability and encourage it; to recognize, respect and value diversity in each other; to work patiently for improvement and not expect too much too quickly; to appreciate and acknowledge what people do right, not just criticize what they do wrong; to be slow to anger and hard to discourage; to be a positive role model, to demonstrate Mercy values, and to live my life by the statement: I can never say "it is enough". Amen.

Guide Me

Mother Catherine, I come to you as your humble daughter/son to ask you to guide me in my daily tasks. Not so easy at times! You know how difficult it is to lead in a compassionate and fair way. You also faced many issues of your day that are not so unlike those of today. We see the uneducated, the homeless, poverty, the uncharitable and many other similar situations. Yet, you stayed calm, kept a sense of humor and said lots of prayers! I ask you to help me today to lead with compassion, to remember to stay calm, to laugh at myself and of course pray, pray, pray! Mother Catherine, make me a worthy Administrator. Amen.



To Serve



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Mother Catherine, we are your daughters and sons. We ask for your guidance as we come together for the good of our community. Our tasks may be simple or difficult but we have one goal and that is to serve this community with love and compassion. May we deliberate, concur and then provide the proper path for all to take. Our tasks will never be complete but our efforts will never cease. We pray, "we can never say it is enough". Amen

The Time and Place To Be

Loving God, You placed us here for a reason. Help us realize that it is the right time and place for us to be. As we educate young women, we know that the work is as significant today as in the time of Catherine McAuley and that the needs of young women everywhere are great. We pray that we may be leaders as we do what you ask of us and that we may clearly see and respond to the needs of our students, families and one another. Help us be generous with our time and talent. Let our work be rooted in love and mercy. We know that it is only through your grace that we are adequate to serve. As we work from morning until night, in Catherine's words "We can never say, 'it is enough'". We realize that our work is never done, but in approaching every day in Catherine's spirit, we ultimately prepare others to love you and to do your work as well. We thank you God for the gift of this day and every day and the opportunity to serve in the name of Mercy.

Be At Peace



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My God, today I give myself to you completely in my thoughts, in my words, in my actions. Help me to set aside my fears as you enfold me completely in loving embrace. Let my heart and mind be at peace at whatever challenges come my way. Should any hardships happen, may they bring me closer to you. Take from me my needless worries. And allow me the pleasure of living in the glory of the Redeemed. Amen.

Connected in Mercy

Heavenly Father, Catherine's love for you led her to live a life of service to the poor and needy. It is with praise and thanksgiving that we are privileged to be connected to Mercy, and to follow in her footsteps this path of service to the less fortunate in our communities. We get inspired by her acts of gentleness and compassion and are moved to being better persons, because she modeled a humble spirit. Her example is lived by many Sisters of Mercy and lay people in the ministry of Mercy, and we pray that the students in our care will be equally impacted by the leadership and guidance we provide to them, in the name of Catherine McAuley. We pray that we impact the lives of our young students for them to be true leaders in the name of Jesus, as we involve them in the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Bless My Earthly Journey



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My God and my All, Catherine, your faithful servant, once said, "we can never say, "it is enough." Help me to live out her belief as it relates to my Mercy ministry. Knowing I will never fully comprehend the depths of Mercy, show me how to unfold more and more of its reality in my life each day. Open my mind and heart to forgiveness, not only when easy, but in challenging moments, to compassion, when not convenient or popular and to kindness, from something as simple as a smile or as humbling as sharing from my necessity. Loving God, I ask you to bless my earthly journey as I endeavor to walk with you and attain a more perfect understanding of the joy of sharing your creation with my brothers and sisters in You. Amen

At The End of the Day

Dear Lord, we are reminded at the end of the day to not only give thanks, but to ask the questions: "who did we help today? who helped us today?" When we do that, we are truly living the spirit of Mercy. God give us the determination to always live the Mercy Charism and be the 'help' for others.



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Embrace the Gift

God, our Creator, help us to embrace the gift of each day, as we realize that joy and sorrow weave together to form the fabric of our lives, one succeeding the other. Thank You for bringing us together as a faith community, giving our best to one another, in both the good and the troubled times. Help us to feel your merciful embrace at every moment. May love be in our hearts and peace in our souls as we reflect on Your ever-present abundance in our daily lives.



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To Transform



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We pray for the strength to persevere, the courage to adhere to our convictions, the compassion to assist others and the fortitude of faith that propels us onward and forward. We pray for abundant spirit, bountiful energy and blessed determination to transform one planet into one world community of tolerance, peace and love.

Be With Us

Catherine, as your faithful daughters and sons, we reflect on your words written in your time and gift to us in this moment of time we are given. When comfort seems elusive, help us to remember that it is solid when centered in God. When we experience deep joy, and then what seems in an instant, great sorrow, help us to remember that you told us this was part of the pattern of life and to keep faith. When we ask why? - may we reflect on your words that it is Jesus Christ we love and serve. Catherine, thank you, may you and the favor and blessing of heaven you promised be with us.

Catherine McAuley's Grave
Catherine's House of Mercy
Now - Mercy International Centre, Dublin, Ireland





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