



**Stewarding the Mercy Charism
Charism, Core Values, Tradition**
*Prayer Service for Mercy Schools
Mercy Day, 2007*

Call to Prayer:

God our Light,
We come to You this day with hearts open.
May we be aware of your presence within us and, with Catherine, help us
to keep our hearts centered on You despite our busy-ness.
Give us eyes to see You in those we encounter, and inspire us to be Your
Mercy to those in need.
Through the intercession of Venerable Catherine McAuley, we pray.
Amen. (1)

Reflection on Charism

Catherine McAuley responded to the needs of her time by putting her gifts at the service of the Church. Her specific and unique gift, given by the grace of God, in and for the church is her charism. In her life she began a legacy of trust by passing down this charism to succeeding generations. Throughout her life Catherine witnessed and participated in works of service to the poor. When she received her inheritance she had the means to establish a formal institution that would help her and others to serve the poor young women and children of Dublin. Catherine built the House of Mercy and her charism and tradition became the source of inspiration for all of us.

Response:

All: Catherine McAuley had a dream.

We have the privilege of knowing it.

We have the responsibility to understand it.

We have the duty to protect it.

We have the honor of living it.

Opening Song: "Circle of Mercy"

For the circle of Mercy is timeless: it is Spirit of Life itself.
Which roots us in Faith, and lifts us in Hope, and holds us in God's
loving care, and holds us in God's loving care.

In Mercy, we touch the hearts of those who are in misery.
In Mercy, we're touched by them and feel their strength and courage.
In Mercy, we heal the pain of those who are in sorrow.
In Mercy, we're healed by them and see the face of hope.

In Mercy, we welcome those the world has left rejected.
In Mercy, we're drawn within the loving heart of God.
In Mercy, we forgive the incompleteness in another.
In Mercy, our sins are healed and we are whole again.

In Mercy, the Spirit-Faith will root us in God's presence.
In Mercy, the Spirit-hope will lift us out of doubt.
In Mercy, the Love of God will be our joy in living.
In Mercy, we join with one another on our journey.

Music: Jeannette Goglia, RSM

Text based on Design For Renewal by Joanna Regan and Isabelle Keiss, RSM

Reading - 2 Timothy 1:6-9

This is why I remind you now to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power and love and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord or ashamed of me for being his prisoner, but with me bear the hardships for the sake of the good news, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done, but for God's own purpose and by God's own grace. This grace had already been granted us, in Jesus Christ, before the beginning of time.

Response:

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Reflection on Tradition

Tradition is the faithful execution over time of the Mercy core values and the continual acceptance of the gift, the charism. It is in the fidelity to the Mercy charism that our tradition exists, lives and grows. This fidelity to the legacy of Catherine McAuley requires, as she demonstrated, consistent awareness of need, flexibility, perseverance, and trust in the providence of God. What, then, makes up the Mercy tradition? It is value-centered Catholic education, with an atmosphere of welcome to all and a spirit of hospitality, compassionate presence and compassion toward all. It has the hallmark of excellence in education. Inherent in this tradition is a preferential option for the poor that manifests itself through the tradition of serving those in need.

Response:

Musical Reflection: “STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS”

Reflection on Core Values

The core values of Mercy education are expressed in mission statements, vision statements, processes for planning, evaluation and assessment. They are consistent with the foundational statements of the Sisters of Mercy, the “*Constitutions*” and “*Institute Direction Statement*”.

Essential core values in Mercy education in relation to self and others are Dignity, Integrity, Spiritual Growth and Development, Respect, Hospitality, Appreciation of Diversity, Compassion, Justice and Service. For the Earth, Global Community and Society there is a commitment to stewardship, responsibility and respect. Mercy schools in relationship to Church build a Faith community, witness to Gospel values and to being Christian and Catholic. Leadership and a deep commitment to collaboration at all levels furthers the core values and Mercy education commits itself to excellence as it continually grows in fidelity to its values.

Response:

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Reflection on Charism, Tradition and Core Values of Mercy

Closing Prayer: Stewarding the Mercy Charism 2007 Network CD



(1) *With Great Confidence in God*, Mercy Secondary Education Association, 2006, p 39.
Prepared by the Network for Mercy Education, 2007