Prayer for our New Members

“I have called you by name and you are mine.”

Introduction: Across the Institute there are 40 women in the process of incorporation into the Sisters of Mercy as well as five women who have made final vows within the last year. Let us take time to pray for them as well as those who are in the discernment process for entrance.

Opening Prayer: God who calls, thank you for the women who have listened to your call to the Sisters of Mercy. May we be present to them and support them in community and ministry. May we allow them to influence our lives and call us to live fully as Sisters of Mercy. May this time of incorporation lead them to a greater knowledge of you and your great love for them. May we always be open to the call of God which continues throughout our lives. Amen

Psalm 1: Blessed are those who walk hand in hand with goodness, who stand beside virtue, who sit in the seat of truth;

For their delight is in the Spirit of Love, and in love’s heart they dwell day and night. Like trees planted by streams of water, that yield fruit in due season, and their leaves flourish; and in all that they do, they give life.

A reading from Micah 6:8: You have been told what is good, and what your God requires of you: only to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.
Incorporation into the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas is a process in which the Institute and a woman mutually discern and respond to God’s call. The goal of this process is incorporation as a member of the Institute through profession of perpetual vows. This involves the woman and her Community in a dynamic, ongoing relationship in which all the members call and challenge one another to growth and discernment. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the woman being incorporated and the Mercy Community collaborate in accepting responsibility for her spiritual and apostolic growth.

Ultimately, God is at the center of the incorporation process. By prompting continual conversion of mind and heart in each person, the Holy Spirit enables growth in holiness, freedom and fullness of life.

Reflection:
How and by whom have you been supported in your life as a sister, associate, companion, volunteer or co-worker? How can you support the new members? How can and do you support others who are part of the Mercy family?

Action:
Visit the Meet the New Members section of the Institute website meet our new members.

Intercessions:
O God, we thank you for the gift of our candidates, novices and women in temporary vows - - bless them with your graces during this coming year.

We thank you for their families and all who nurtured their vocations – may they continue to live with God.

We thank you for the sisters, associates, volunteers, companions and all co-ministers who witness to Mercy – may they continue to grow in the mercy of God’s love.

We thank you for Catherine and all of the sisters who have gone before us – may they continue to be an example for others.

Closing Prayer:
God of all good gifts, thank you for your gift of these women, for the building up of your reign. May those touched by the lives of these women be transformed and shown your love and mercy. We ask all this through Jesus who taught us how to love. Amen.