From the documents of the Sisters of Mercy:
Sisters of Mercy are called to ... "rejoice in the continual invitation to seek justice, to be compassionate and to reflect mercy to the world."

Constitutions #84

Jesus said, "There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell prey to robbers. They stripped him, beat him and then went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; he saw him but continued on. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; he saw him and went on. But a Samaritan who was journeying along came on him and was moved to pity at the sight. He approached him and dressed his wounds, pouring in oil and wine. He then hoisted him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, where he cared for him. The next day he took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request: 'Look after him, and if there is any further expense I will repay you on my way back. "Which of these in your opinion was neighbor to the man who fell in with the robbers?" The answer came, "The one who treated him with compassion." Jesus said to him, "Then go and do the same."

Reflection Questions for Prayer and Faith Sharing:

- When have I shown compassion/mercy to someone in need?
- When have I received compassion from someone when I was in need?

Song: "Pour out Compassion and Mercy" by Mechtild Magdeburg from: "Woman's Song of God", Hermitage Productions or any other music that speaks to compassion or mercy.

Psalm 121
I lift up my eyes toward the mountains
whence shall help come to me?
My help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
May he not suffer your foot to slip;
may he slumber not who guards you;
indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps,
the guardian of Israel.
The Lord is your guardian; the Lord is your shade;
he is beside you at your right hand.
The sun shall not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will guard you from all evil;
he will guard your life.
The Lord will guard your coming and your going, both now and forever.

**Reading:** *A Woman Sings of Mercy* by Sister M. Carmel Bourke, RSM (Pages 42-43)
"Catherine was always deeply moved by suffering of any kind and immediately took some step to alleviate it; as when she found a small child weeping on the city pavement, beside a ragged bundle. Her parents had just died of fever and the heartless landlord had evicted the child and her rags from the dingy cellar they had called home. Catherine picked her up, carried her home to Baggot Street, washed and fed her - and thus began the first Mercy orphanage, forerunner of hundreds of child-care homes all over the world, wherever a child in distress is to be found."

**Reflection and Time for Sharing:**

- What has stirred in you? What does it require of you?
- What do you want to say/do for those in our world who are so in need of God's mercy?

**Closing Prayer: Common Statement and Re-commitment to Mercy Trocaire - 1981.**

Mercy is God's powerful Word spoke in Jesus - His life, passion and resurrection.
It bends and changes, forms and re-forms our lives, so that we may receive Mercy and, in turn, be merciful.

As women (and men) of the Church today in the steps of Mary and Catherine, with faith and prophetic boldness, we commit ourselves anew to the search for God's Mercy, by standing with the poor, reassessing our ministries, working to alleviate and eradicate poverty, injustice and oppression, in collaboration with all people of goodwill who make the Gospel live in today's world.

**Suggested Resources:**
*My Song is of Mercy and Justice* - Sister M. Angela Bolster, RSM - Tower Books of Cork, 1984

*Catherine McAuley, Prophet of Mercy* - Sister M. Angela Bolster, RSM - D&A O'Leary Ltd., Cork, 1996.

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