Praying in Preparation for the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

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Our Lady of Mercy

September 16 — Prayer in Preparation for the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

As we begin this prayer in preparation for the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, let us call ourselves and each other to creatively and concretely keep aflame the “Revolution of Tenderness and Love” through the “business of our lives,” the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

God of mercy, lover of those who are poor, pour out your Spirit upon all creation. You sent Jesus to us that we might know the depths of your love and mercy for us. May we who have received mercy be mercy for others.

Animated by Catherine McAuley’s passion to serve your suffering people, we have committed ourselves to follow her example. For the sake of your reign, we have embraced the Mercy way of life.

As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Mary, the Mother of Mercy, we ask that you continue to give us hands to heal and soothe, ears to hear the longing and anguish of those who cry out for your justice. Let our hearts be filled with compassion for the stranger and the outcast. May we be sister to one another and to all your sons and daughters.

May what we profess with our lips be proclaimed in our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus and through the intercession of Mary, our Mother of Mercy. Amen.

September 24
Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

Merciful Jesus, you inspired in Catherine McAuley a lively conviction of your enduring love. In times of need, she and her companions faithfully entreated your help, and were never disappointed. In this same confident spirit we come to you now.

Because you walked among us, you know our human experience. You have shared our joys and sorrows. You have healed and comforted us, sustained and renewed us. Be with us now in this time of challenge and change. Let us experience your loving presence.

We also ask your blessing on our living and deceased family members, our sisters in community, our associates and benefactors. Show them your loving kindness.

Encouraged by your care for us, we will, with lively fidelity, devote ourselves to the works of mercy. Through our good works, may your people experience your unceasing care for them. We ask all this through the intercession of Mary, your mother and our mother of Mercy. Amen.
Our Lady of Mercy

September 19
When I was naked, you clothed me...

Today we take up the cry of earth and the cry of the poor. We pray for lands stripped and ravaged, and for lands clothed with meadows and forests. Knowing our complicity, we pray in solidarity with those whose limited resources force them to choose between food, clothing, medicine or education for their children. We pray with those who question their own consumerism and wastefulness. In Mercy, may we encounter one another in our need and in our gratitude for true abundance.

September 20
When I was homeless, you sheltered me...

Today we echo the cry of earth and the cry of the poor. We pray to give a home in our hearts for lands exploited and abused, and for lands luminous with beauty. Knowing our complicity, we pray in solidarity with those discarded and cast off to the fringes of life, and with those who welcome others into safety and dignity. In Mercy, may we encounter one another in our need and in our gratitude for a place of home.

September 21
When I was sick, you cared for me...

Today we reverence the cry of earth and the cry of the poor. We pray for a universe sickened by indifference and violence, and for a universe graced and whole. Knowing our complicity, we pray in solidarity with those denied health care, and with those who offer a touch of tenderness and compassion. In Mercy, may we encounter one another in our need and in our gratitude for healing.

September 22
When I was in prison, you visited me...

Today we embrace the cry of earth and the cry of the poor. We pray for a planet enslaved by greed and fear, and for a planet ever new with discovery and potential. Knowing our complicity, we pray in solidarity with those held captive in shame and isolation, and with those who break through walls of rejection and condemnation. In Mercy, may we encounter one another in our need and in our gratitude for forgiveness.
September 17
When I was hungry, you gave me to eat...

Today we listen to the cry of earth and the cry of the poor. We pray for lands exhausted and depleted, and for lands laden with harvest. Knowing our complicity, we pray in solidarity with those who know hunger, and with those who offer food that nourishes. In Mercy, may we encounter one another in our need and in our gratitude for daily bread.

September 18
When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink...

Today we enter the cry of earth and the cry of the poor. We pray for waters poisoned and defiled, and for waters teeming with life and freshness. Knowing our complicity, we pray in solidarity with those who know thirst, and with those who offer access to water’s free gift. In Mercy, may we encounter one another in our need and in our gratitude for living water.

September 23
When I was a stranger, you welcomed me...

Today we open our hearts to the cry of earth and the cry of the poor. We pray for creation disconnected and estranged from our hearts, and for creation cherished and held as sacred. Knowing our complicity, we pray in solidarity with those driven from their homeland with those who embrace them in justice and hope. In Mercy, may we encounter one another in our need and our gratitude for belonging.