



New Beginnings

Introduction: September has been a time of new beginnings for the Sisters of Mercy. Catherine began the House of Mercy in September and, in the past many entrance dates were in September. September also meant the beginning of new experiences for many who have served in education. In Mercy we have had new beginnings. Four women entered the Institute this summer; others continue to discern with vocation ministers; others are waiting for the invitation. Let us pray this month for new beginnings.

O God, help me to believe in beginnings...

Help me to make beginnings:
to begin going out of my weary mind
into fresh dreams
daring to make my own bold tracks
in the land of now;

to begin forgiving
that I might experience mercy;
to begin questioning the unquestionable
that I may know truth;
to begin disciplining
that I may create beauty;
to begin sacrificing
that I may accomplish justice;
to begin risking
that I may make peace;
to begin loving
that I may realize joy.

Reflection: Recall experiences you have had of beginning – either entering religious life or a new ministry. What did that call forth from you?

Help me to be a beginning for others,
to be a singer to the songless,
a storyteller to the aimless,
a befriender of the friendless;
to become a beginning of hope for the despairing,
of assurance for the doubting,
of reconciliation for the divided;
to become the beginning of freedom for the oppressed,
of comfort for the sorrowing,
of friendship for the forgotten;
to become a beginning of beauty for the forlorn,
of sweetness for the soured,
of gentleness for the angry,
of wholeness for the broken,
of peace for the frightened and violent of the earth.

Reflection: Who or what do you hope to become a beginning for?

Sharing: Please share on any of your reflections.

Let us pray for new beginnings: God of Mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who have entered this year, we pray

For those received into the novitiate and beginning their experience in Laredo, we pray

For the professed sisters who have moved to Laredo to live in community with the novices, we pray

For those who have made or are making first vows in our community, we pray

For those who have made or are making final vows in Mercy, we pray

For those who are beginning their year as Mercy Volunteers, we pray

For new associates and pre-associates, we pray

For ...

Closing prayer: Help us to believe in beginnings,
to make a beginning,
to be a beginning,
so that I may not just grow old,
but grow new
each day of this wild, amazing life
you call me to live
with the passion of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Prayer service based on the prayer: Help Me to Believe in Beginnings by Ted Loder, *"Guerrillas of Grace"*

Vocation Prayers for 2008-2009 Prepared by the Institute New Membership Office