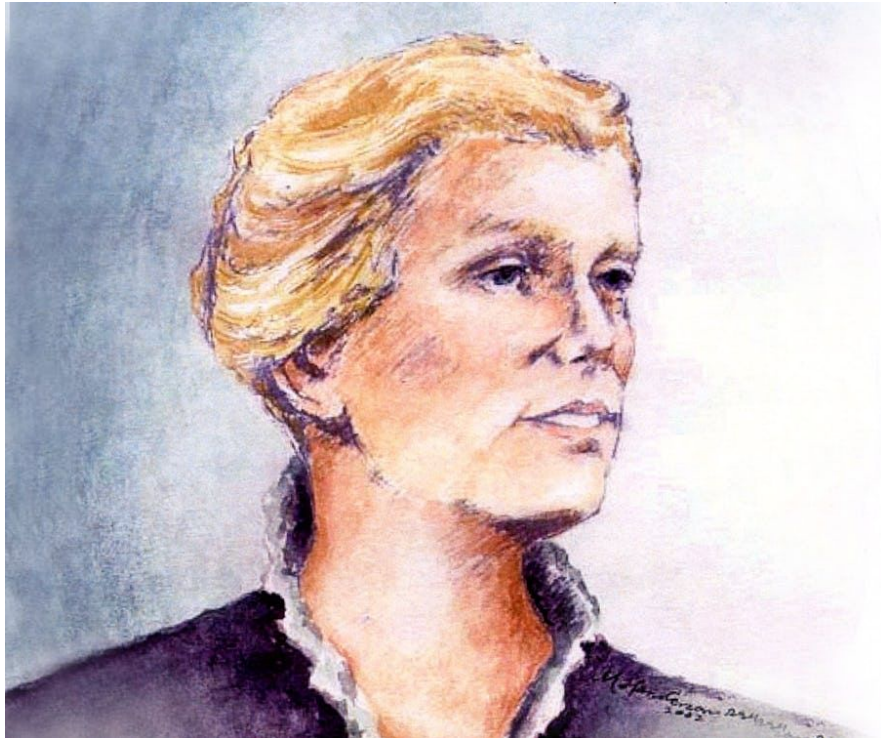


Works of Mercy and Catherine McAuley: Curriculum Guide for MESA



Grades K through 6



Mercy Education
System of the Americas

Educación de la Misericordia
de las Américas

The Mercy Education System of the Americas (MESA) is rooted in the Gospel, through the Catholic faith and the Mercy charism. Inspired by Catherine McAuley, MESA nurtures highly competent and deeply compassionate leaders ready to serve a vulnerable world.

MESA Mission Statement

How to Use this Curriculum Guide

The following curriculum guide on Catherine McAuley and the Mercy Charism is structured on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. [A video guide to the new curriculum is here](#), or please read the following description.

Following the introductory material, there are 15 sections - one for each Corporal and Spiritual Work of Mercy. Each section contains the following components:

- ❖ **Enduring Understanding:** This is what students should learn and make their own from the lesson.
- ❖ **Essential Questions:** These questions guide students' understanding of Catherine's story and prompt them to make connections to their own lives.
- ❖ **Extension Questions:** These are questions particularly geared for grades 4-6.
- ❖ **Catherine's Story and Quotes from Catherine:** Educators may think of these as the starting point for their lessons. They help educators connect the story of Catherine McAuley with the Works of Mercy.
- ❖ **Scripture References and Saints and People of Good Will:** this section offers resources to help incorporate each Work of Mercy into your current curriculum, or you may use them as a starting point for your lesson.
- ❖ **BE Mercy:** This section can help students understand ways to internalize what it means to "be mercy" in the world, as Catherine McAuley did, and to embrace Mercy in the world. This section has its own essential and extension questions and can be used in conjunction with Catherine's story and the Work of Mercy, or it can stand alone as its own lesson.
- ❖ **Connection to Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:** This section matches the Works of Mercy to the Critical Concerns.

Introduction

In keeping with MESA's mission statement, we offer the following curriculum to our elementary educators.

The Works of Mercy call us to be more like Jesus. The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the Gospel of Matthew 25: 31-45. The Spiritual Works of Mercy came from the works of theologians throughout history.

Catherine McAuley recognized that for the Sisters of Mercy and their ministries, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy should be the business of their lives: "We ought then to have great confidence in God in the discharge of all these offices of Mercy, spiritual and corporal, which constitute the business of our lives..."

On September 1, 2016, Pope Francis in his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, announced a new Work of Mercy, Care for Our Common Home, which is both a Corporal and Spiritual Work of Mercy.

In his message he wrote:

Nothing unites us to God more than an act of mercy, for it is by mercy that the Lord forgives our sins and gives us the grace to practice acts of mercy in his name."

To paraphrase Saint James, "we can say that mercy without works is dead ... In our rapidly changing and increasingly globalized world, many new forms of poverty are appearing. In response to them, we need to be creative in developing new and practical forms of charitable outreach as concrete expressions of the way of mercy."

The Christian life involves the practice of the traditional seven corporal and seven spiritual works of mercy. "We usually think of the works of mercy individually and in relation to a specific initiative: hospitals for the sick, soup kitchens for the hungry, shelters for the homeless, schools for those to be educated, the confessional and spiritual direction for those needing counsel and forgiveness... But if we look at the works of mercy as a whole, we see that the object of mercy is human life itself and everything it embraces."

Obviously "human life itself and everything it embraces" includes care for our common home. So let me propose a complement to the two traditional sets of seven: may the works of mercy also include care for our common home.

As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for a "grateful contemplation of God's world" which "allows us to discover in each thing a teaching

which God wishes to hand on to us". As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires "simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness" and "makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world."

Citations for the quotes are available in the original document at the link below:

[Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#)

For a synopsis of the life of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, go to [The Life of Catherine McAuley](#)

The Works of Mercy

"Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, my Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you took me into your home. I needed clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' "Then the people who have God's approval will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and take you into our homes or see you in need of clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' "The king will answer them, 'I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me'" (Matthew: 25: 34 – 40).

"Catherine demonstrated great faith. It was at the heart of all the ways in which she carried out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and it was her whole-hearted commitment to serving those who were longing for God's Mercy that inspired others to share in her life's work" (O'Sullivan, *Catherine McAuley, A Woman Who Stood ...* 22).

Part I: Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed The Hungry



Enduring Understanding:

As followers of Jesus, we are called to reach out and respond to the hungry in our world.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine demonstrate this work of mercy? Where do you see people in your life who are hungry? How can your family share their food with the poor? Are people always just hungry for food? How can you become a bridge between the rich and the poor?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6) Why would the man show up twice in one day? What did Catherine mean by, “Better to feed a hundred impostors than one poor hungry soul be turned away”? Which seemed more important, giving food or words of kindness? Is that always true? How do you think Catherine’s personal experience of being poor changed her worldview? What organizations do you know that feed the hungry?

Catherine’s Story:

“Catherine. . . became (a) familiar face in the back lanes and streets of Coolock Village visiting the sick and dying and bringing food as well as words of kindness to the hungry. Catherine was in the fortunate position to have been given the support of the Callaghans in her work of mercy. They were more than generous and gave her the freedom to share their good fortune with the needy.” (Reid and Shiel 30)

“Catherine’s experience of both wealth and poverty in her own life enabled her to become a personal bridge between the two classes and cultures. . . Having experienced poverty first hand, Catherine was able to guide others in compassionately responding to those in need. She inspired the rich to join in her efforts to help the economically disadvantaged.” (Sunderman 23)

“Sr. Mary Ann standing at the kitchen door smiled to herself as she heard Bridie grumble her way to the bottom step. ‘What’s up, Bridie?’ ‘Me bristles is up, that’s what’s up! I’d bet me last copper, if I had one, that’s the same fella at the door again for a bite. ‘I met a couple of ‘walking nuns’ by the canal” says he, ‘and they told me to ring the bell for a bit to eat.’ It’s the same lad, I’m sure. He had an old hat on him this mornin’, but I’d know them eyes anywhere.’ ‘Well Bridie, you had better give him his bit again. You know what Mother Catherine would say. . . . ‘Better to

feed a hundred impostors than one poor hungry soul be turned away.’ ‘Ah sure I suppose she’s right isn’t she?’ Bridie Bolger threw her eyes to heaven and carried on mumbling her way to the kitchen.” (Reid 60)

Quotes from Catherine:

“God knows I would rather be cold and hungry than the poor in Kingston or elsewhere should be deprived of any consolation in our power to afford.”

“Better to feed a hundred impostors than one poor hungry soul be turned away.”

“Let charity then be our badge of honour . . . so that it may truly be said, there is in us but one heart and one soul in God.”

Connection to the Scripture:

- ❖ “The generous will be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9
- ❖ “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread which came down from Heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is My Flesh.’” John 6:51
- ❖ “I was hungry and you gave me food.” Matthew 25:35
- ❖ “The fasting I want, is it not to share your bread with the hungry?” Isaiah 58:6-7
- ❖ “Give us this day our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11
- ❖ “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’” Exodus 16:12
- ❖ “Then God said, ‘I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.’” Genesis 1:29
- ❖ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” Matthew 5:6

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ “Hunger for love is much more difficult to satisfy than hunger for bread.” Mother Teresa of Calcutta
- ❖ [Saint Frances of Rome](#)

BE Mercy: Make God your Center

It is not enough to do the Works of Mercy. Catherine calls all of us in the Mercy family to BE Mercy in our hearts, centered in God - to choose Mercy as our way of being in the world.

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:
“[We should be] as the compass that goes round its circle without stirring from its center. Our center is God, from whom all our actions should spring as from their source.”

- ❖ Essential Questions: How does God speak to you? How do you follow God’s direction?
- ❖ Extension Questions (Grades 4-6): Catherine used a compass to explain her idea of having God as your center. Use your own words to explain her idea. Can you imagine some other symbols that explain the same idea?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Immigration, Racism, Women, Nonviolence, Earth

Give Drink to the Thirsty



Enduring Understanding:

Water is indispensable for life. As followers of Jesus, we are called to respond to those who do not have access to clean water.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine demonstrate this work of mercy? Where do you see people in your life who are thirsty? How can you and your family help ensure others have access to clean water? Can people be thirsty for something other than water? What does Jesus thirst for from us?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6) How is Catherine like “living water?” Water is essential to life; what is essential to Mercy? Offering a glass of water is often a sign of hospitality. What are some other things water may stand for?

Catherine’s Story:

“There is no doubt that Catherine McAuley was deeply connected to her God. She was able to open her heart to those who may have been in misery. Catherine showed deep concern for those she met in the laneways of Dublin who were poor, sick, and uneducated. Some would say that she was able to break through what others had deemed impossible.” (O’Sullivan, *Catherine McAuley, A Woman Who Stood... 4*).

Quotes from Catherine:

“We must try to be like those rivers which enter into the sea without losing any of the sweetness of the water.”

“It is for God we serve the poor, not for thanks.”

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ “Jesus once said: ‘I promise that whoever gives a cup of cold water to the least of my followers because that person is my follower will certainly receive a reward.’ Matthew 10:42
- ❖ “I was thirsty and you gave me drink.” Matthew 25:35
- ❖ “‘Lord, when did we see you...thirsty and not give you a drink?’...And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.’” Matthew 25:37, 40
- ❖ “Everyone who thirsts, come to the water...” Isaiah 55:1
- ❖ The Samaritan woman at the well - John 4:5-14 ([Slide show](#))
- ❖ “‘Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes?’” Matthew 6:25

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Mother Teresa](#)
- ❖ [Saint Peter Claver of Spain](#)
- ❖ [Water.org](#)

BE Mercy: Live in Praise

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:
 - “Your whole life should be a continual act of praise, often in the day raising your heart to God and begging the grace to spend that day, at least, in (God’s) service.”
 - “Now and again bestow some praise.”
 - “We belong to God - all in us is (God’s).”
- ❖ Essential Questions: How do you let God know you are grateful? How do you serve God and others during your day? What are the ways you praise God?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): What examples of people “raising their hearts to God” have you witnessed? What new ways can you imagine? What are words of praise you have heard about yourself? What are some examples of praise you have given to someone else?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Immigration, Racism, Women, Earth, Nonviolence

Clothe the Naked



Enduring Understanding:

When we are born, we depend on God and others to take care of our needs.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine take care of the needs of others? How can you and your family help give clothing to people who do not have good clothes? Why is it important to have good clothing?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6) How does what you wear affect how you feel as a person? Clothes are called a “necessity.” Discuss the role of clothing and brand names in our society. Are there any “Mercy rules” you think should apply to clothing? Do “clothes make the (wo)man?”

Catherine’s Story:

“Clothing was a big problem too. Many of the little ones had often very little to wear and of course, not one of them had a shoe. But Catherine and Ann and some of their friends had plans to change all that. Many an old pair of curtains, once hanging on the ‘well to do’ windows . . . now hung on the backs of many a wee child in the neighborhood. Catherine begged and borrowed from her well off friends and neighbors. Ann, her friend, sat up into the early hours of the morning converting drapes into dresses until her eyes almost popped out of her head. They worked hard, but loved every minute of it. It was a real gift to be able to help in some small way these darling little ones who had so few of life’s necessities.” (Reid 24)

Quotes from Catherine:

“Our charity is to be cordial...something that renews, invigorates and warms, such should be the effect of love for each other.”

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ “Jesus said, ‘I was naked and you clothed Me.’” Matthew 25:35
- ❖ “Jesus said, ‘Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none.’” Luke 3:11
- ❖ “And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger...” Luke 2:7
- ❖ “And they crucified Him, and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.” Mark 15:24
- ❖ “Suppose a brother or sister does not have any clothes or daily food and one of you tells them, ‘Go in peace! Stay warm and eat heartily.’ If you do not provide for their bodily

needs, what good does it do? In the same way, faith by itself, if it does not prove itself with actions, is dead.” James 2:15-17

- ❖ “He answered them, ‘Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who doesn’t have any. Whoever has food should share it too.’” Luke 3:11

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ Story of [Saint Martin of Tours](#) who gave half his cloak to a shivering beggar.
- ❖ [Story of Saint Jose Sanchez del Rio and activities](#)
- ❖ [Dress for Success](#)

BE Mercy: Be Humble and Sincere

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

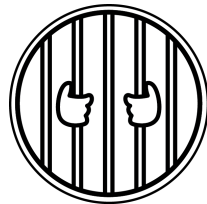
“If we are humble and sincere, God will finish in us the work (God) has begun. (God) never refuses grace to those who ask for it.”

- ❖ Essential Questions: What does it mean to be humble and sincere? How can you ask for God’s grace?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): How do you define grace? How are humility and sincerity related to Mercy? How have you witnessed students show humility and/or sincerity in school? Playing sports? With friends?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Immigration, Racism, Women, Nonviolence

Visit the Imprisoned



Enduring Understanding:

All people make mistakes. God loves everyone, even when they have made a mistake that caused them to go to prison.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine comfort and help the imprisoned? How do we think of people who are in prison? What can you and your family do to give comfort to those who are in prison? How can you comfort people who have family members in prison? How can you let prisoners know that God loves and forgives them?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): How are people like Mrs. Harper a prisoner, even though she is not behind bars? Can you think of a way that people create their own prisons? Share some examples. Who are marginalized people in our communities? How can you help free those people?

Catherine's Story:

"Mrs. Harper had been living in dreadful conditions when Catherine found her. . . What a job it was to clean the poor lady up. She hadn't seen soap and water for about fifty years, but Catherine treated her like a queen. The biggest excitement of all for the children were the pet mice the poor old lady had hidden away in her pocket and which escaped when the old dear's apron was taken almost by force from around her tiny little waist. They were probably the only creature company she had experienced in a very long time." (Reid 36)

Quotes from Catherine:

"Mercy receives the ungrateful again and again, and is never weary in pardoning them."

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ "I was in prison and you came to visit Me." Matthew 25:36
- ❖ "God gave you good parents and teachers to lead you on the right path. God's Fourth Commandment: "Honor your mother and your father." Exodus 20: 12
- ❖ John stayed close to Jesus all the way to the foot of the Cross. John 19:26

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Saint Josephine Bakhita of Sudan](#)
- ❖ [Sister Marilyn Lacey, R.S.M.](#)
- ❖ [Saint Oscar Romero](#)

BE Mercy: Practice Virtue

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

"No one becomes perfect at once ... by the presence of lesser virtues we ascend to the heroic."

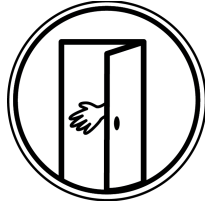
"We may perceive from all our instructions that a strong and lively faith is the solid foundation of all virtue."

- ❖ Essential Questions: How do you practice being good in small ways? How does being good in small ways, help you be better overall?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): What does it mean to live a virtuous life? Use as many different words as you can. Who do you know who practices virtue? How do they show it?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Women, Nonviolence, Racism, Immigration

Shelter the Homeless



Enduring Understanding:

God asks us to welcome, respect and show hospitality to others including those who have had to leave their home or do not have a place to live.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine help the homeless she saw around her? How can you welcome people you meet in your life? What can you and your family do to help the homeless? What can you and your family do to help people who have come here from another country?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): How does Catherine's experience with one person influence how she cares for the many? What does it mean to be "at home?" What is it, then, to be "homeless?" Who are the "homeless" in your community? Is homelessness bigger than "people without houses?" Was Jesus homeless? Was Catherine? How did Catherine bring people "home?"

Catherine's Story:

"The first incident involved a young servant girl that Catherine was unable to save from ... victimization ... The young woman brought her predicament to Catherine's attention at the time when Catherine was living with the Callaghans ... Catherine was deeply affected by the plea of this young woman and personally appealed to the Irish Sisters of Charity to give this young woman safe lodging. The accounts note that an admissions committee ... was responsible for these decisions and the committee wasn't scheduled to meet for another two weeks. Catherine went so far as to plead for them to take the young woman in. Her attempts failed. The young woman returned to her morally imperiled situation and Catherine never saw her again. This incident so affected Catherine that it even disturbed her sleep ... She decided that at some future date, she would do what she could to provide safe lodging to women ..." (Draves-Arpaia 47)

"Besides helping so many people in the village, Catherine took a great interest in the servant girls, not only in her own house, but in the numerous grand houses around the area and surrounding neighborhood. Many young girls were treated badly by their masters, who often took advantage and Catherine's heart was filled with pity for them. In her heart, she hoped that

one day she might have the money to buy a little house where she could give shelter to young girls like these.” (Reid 30)

Quotes from Catherine:

“The Lord and Master of our House and Home is a faithful Provider. Let us never desire more than enough - He will give that and a blessing.”

“What an ineffable consolation to serve Christ Himself, in the person of the poor, and to walk in the very same path He trod!”

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ Holy Family was exiled to Egypt to escape Herod. They were grateful for those who sheltered them on the way. Matthew 2:13-18
- ❖ “Jesus said, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’” Matthew 8:20
- ❖ “I was a stranger and you welcomed Me.” Matthew 25:36
- ❖ “You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.” Exodus 22:21
- ❖ “The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself.” Leviticus 19:34
- ❖ “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers..for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ “We have all known the long loneliness, and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community.” - Servant of God Dorothy Day
- ❖ [Saint Katherine Drexel](#)
- ❖ [Sister Mary Scullion, R.S.M.](#)
- ❖ [Habitat for Humanity](#)

BE Mercy: Be Charitable To All

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:
 - “Let charity be our badge of honor.”
 - “She/he is doing a great deal for God and (the) community if she/he is kind and charitable to all.”
- ❖ Essential Questions: How do you help other people? How is helping other people helping God?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): Explain having charity be our “badge of honor.” Are there any other “badges of honor” a Christian should aspire to earn?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:
Immigration, Women, Racism, Nonviolence

Visit the Sick



Enduring Understanding:

God asks us to see those around us who are suffering, and to use our hearts to respond with compassion by giving others comfort and support.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine give comfort and support to the sick and the dying? How do you feel when you are sick? How can you give comfort to someone who is sick? What does it mean to show compassion to someone?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): Have you ever put in a long day in service to others? Describe what that feels like. In what way(s) may you be called to minister to the sick? Are there places in our world experiencing an outbreak of disease? How are Christians called to help?

Catherine's Story:

"Those who came to join Catherine lived austere, praying, coaching, and caring for the needy. Visitation of the sick in their homes began in 1828. Perhaps the idea for the first Mercy Hospital sprang into existence when Catherine came home carrying a sick and abandoned child found on an alley doorstep. Parents dying of influenza had placed the child where someone could hear the cries. Catherine heard." (Kelly 13)

"The cholera epidemic of 1832 hit Dublin, and Catherine McAuley agreed to staff a cholera hospital on Townsend Street. The sisters nursed in shifts from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the next seven months." (O'Sullivan, *Catherine McAuley, A Woman Who Stood ...* 20)

Quotes from Catherine:

"Mercy, the principal path pointed out by Jesus Christ to those who are desirous of following Him, has in all ages of the Church excited the faithful in a particular manner to instruct and comfort the sick and dying poor, as in them they regarded the person of our divine Master..."

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.”
Matthew 9:35
- ❖ “Jesus said, ‘I was ill and you comforted Me.’” Matthew 25:36

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Saint Marianne Cope](#)
- ❖ [Saint Thomas More](#)

BE Mercy: Reflect Jesus

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

“It is not sufficient that Jesus Christ be formed in us - He must be recognized in our conduct.”

“In order to study Jesus Christ, you must render yourself familiar with his meekness, patience, forbearance, charity in word and work, contempt of all earthly distinction, sincerity, obedience, love of prayer, humility ... ”

“We find those who can enumerate very particularly all that Jesus Christ said and did, but what does he care for that? He said and did so, not that we should recount it in words, but show him in our lives, in our daily practice.”

- ❖ Essential Questions: What do you do each day that is kind and loving like Jesus? How do you show your love to others?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): If Jesus came today and sat down with you, what would you talk about? How do you think Jesus would talk about the 21st century? What do you think he would ask of all of us? Name three characteristics of Jesus you could bring to your everyday life.

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Immigration, Women, Racism, Nonviolence

Bury the Dead



Enduring Understanding:

Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. God asks us to honor and respect people’s bodies even after they have died.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine honor people who had died? How can you show your love for people you know who are no longer living? What does it mean to have eternal life? How can you give comfort to someone who is grieving?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): How did Catherine transform her pain at losing the Callaghans into something good and life-giving? How did her sisters transform their pain at losing Catherine into something good and life-giving? What does the symbol of “have ready a good cup of tea” mean to all of us who are part of the Mercy community? How do you do that at your school? Catherine tells her sisters to “preserve union and peace.” Discuss how Catherine’s words apply today.

Catherine’s Story:

“William Callaghan’s death left a great gap in many people’s lives. (*Note: Catherine eventually went to live with the Callaghans after her own parents’ deaths.*) Catherine was heartbroken. Once again, she had to go through the pain of losing both parents. She loved and cared for these wonderful people right to the end ... They saw in Catherine a beautiful young woman who dared to be different despite a lot of opposition. It was not surprising that when William Callaghan’s will was read it was discovered he had left almost his entire fortune, including the magnificent Coolock House and contents to his beloved Kitty McAuley ... As the months passed, Catherine became more excited about plans for spending her fortune ... Her plan was to build a house, a fine house in a good location, where she could have a school for young girls and children.” (Reid p.34-35, 39)

“To all gathered around her and to us as well she (Catherine) promised, ‘Preserve union and peace. Do this and your happiness will be so great as to cause you to wonder. My legacy to the Institute is charity.’ . . . She instructed the Sisters to have a good cup of tea when she was gone. Catherine McAuley was asking her Sisters to look after one another and to trust that God is in and around us when things are difficult and confusing. Today this image of a good cup of tea is a sign of love, hospitality and care for one another. Catherine McAuley died on 11 November 1841, in Baggot Street Dublin Ireland.” (*Catherine McAuley* by Michael O’Sullivan)

Quotes from Catherine:

“Each day is a step which we take toward Eternity and we shall continue thus from day to day until we take the last step into bringing us into the Presence of God.”

“If we are humble and sincere, God will finish in us the work He has begun. He never refuses His grace to those who ask for it.”

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ Jesus speaks, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me, though he should die, will come to life.” John 11:25-26

- ❖ “They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb...They laid Jesus there.” John 19:40-42
- ❖ Month of November - All Souls Day and All Saints Day
- ❖ Tobit breaks the law to bury the dead. [Story of Tobit](#)

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Saint Raphael](#)
- ❖ [St. Catherine of Siena](#)

BE Mercy: Pray

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

“We may address God as we would a dear friend to whom we owed a great deal ... ”

“Prayer is a plant, the seed of which is sown in the heart of every Christian. If it is well cultivated and nourished, it will produce abundant fruit, but if it is neglected it will wither and die.”

“... we must entertain a great love for silence.”

“Let us pray well and never grow weary.”

- ❖ Essential Questions: How do you talk to God? Each day, how do you let God know you are thankful?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): Is prayer essential? Is silence essential? Support your answers. List as many ways of praying as you can.

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Nonviolence

Care of Our Common Home

This Work of Mercy is both Corporal and Spiritual.



Enduring Understanding:

God created the earth and gave us dominion over it. We are to be good stewards of the earth and not waste or destroy the gifts of God’s creation.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine show care for the earth and the gifts of God's creation? Do you recognize wastefulness around you? How can you help care for the earth in your family, your neighborhood and your school?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): "Simple, homemade, and sturdy, these boots were made for walking." How is this description of the boots fit with a vision of caring for the environment? What is the attitude we need to have to properly care for the earth? What everyday things can you change to make them more environmentally friendly? What action can you take to help preserve our earth? What changes do you wish governments would make to help? What steps could you take to encourage our government to enact any change you think is necessary?

Catherine's Story:

"The year before she died, the community at Baggot Street undertook a project especially dear to her heart - making cloth boots. Inexpensive, warm, and sturdy, they were reinforced with leather ... Perhaps no other image is more evocative of the essence of Catherine than these boots. Simple, homemade, and sturdy, these boots were made for walking. It was in the walking that Catherine and her companions became who they were. It was in the walking that they ministered to others. Like the poet Theodore Roethke in '[The Waking](#),' they learned by going where they had to go ... Catherine and her sisters simply put one foot in front of the other, and the Sisters of Mercy emerged out of the chaos." (Koontz 10)

Quotes from Catherine:

"Prayer is a plant the seed of which is sown in the heart of every Christian, but its growth entirely depends on the care we take to nourish it."

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ "The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." Psalm 24:1
- ❖ "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." Genesis 2:15
- ❖ "And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" Genesis 1:28

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Pope Francis's Laudato Si'](#)
- ❖ [Saint Kateri Tekakwita \(Child of Nature\)](#); [St. Kateri video](#)
- ❖ [Chief Seattle](#)
- ❖ [Rachel Carson](#)
- ❖ [St. Francis of Assisi Gr 4-6](#); [St. Francis of Assisi Gr K-3](#)

BE Mercy: Be Open to New Ideas

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

“The adage - never too old to learn - is a great comfort to me.”

- ❖ Essential Questions: Do you listen when someone tells you a new idea? How do you learn new things?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): Do you greet new ideas with openness? How do you discern good ideas from bad?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Earth, Nonviolence

Part II: Spiritual Works of Mercy

Admonish the Sinner



Enduring Understanding:

God asks us to help others with love. If we see someone doing something that will hurt them or others, we need to speak up.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine lovingly help people who may be tempted to make a bad choice? How can you help your friends make good choices? When you see someone doing something wrong, do you ignore it or kindly speak to them?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): Does “admonishment” have to be “scolding”? What should “Mercy admonishment” look and sound like? How can we encourage correct behavior from someone while leaving their personhood intact? Share times when you were admonished in a merciful, just and kind way.

Catherine’s Story:

“Catherine offered this piece of advice:

‘Don’t let crosses vex or tease.

Try to meet all with peace and ease,

notice the faults of every day

but often in a playful way.

And when you seriously complain

let it be known - to give you pain -
Attend to one thing at a time -
you've fifteen hours from six to nine.” (letter of December 9)
(*The Luminous Ordinary*, 24)

Quotes from Catherine:

“Try to meet all with peace and ease.”

“Sisters (or People) of Mercy should be particularly kind - the kindest people on earth, with the tenderest pity and compassion for the poor.”

“Remember, if there were a hundred regulations to be observed, the most important of these is Charity.”

“Never command anything which you have not first practiced yourself.”

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ “My brothers and sisters, whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” James 5:19-20
- ❖ “Jesus said, ‘If your brother/sister sins, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them ... there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’” Luke 17:3, 15:10
- ❖ By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. 1 John 5:2-3
- ❖ Parable of the blind leading the blind. Luke 6:39-42
- ❖ Story of King David and the prophet Nathan. 2 Samuel 12:1-7
- ❖ Parable of the lost sheep. Matthew 18:12–14 and Luke 15:3–7

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Saint Anna Wang of China and activities](#)
- ❖ “O God of great mercy, you sent us your only Son as the greatest demonstration of limitless love and mercy. You do not reject sinners. Rather, you have opened to them the treasure of your infinite mercy, so that they can draw not only justification but an abundance of every holiness to which souls can reach. Father of great mercy, I desire all hearts would trust in your infinite mercy.” [Saint Faustina Kowalski](#)
- ❖ Abraham Lincoln
- ❖ Martin Luther King
- ❖ [Thomas Merton quotes](#)
- ❖ [Saint Thomas More](#)
- ❖ [Saint Joseph Mukasa Balikuddembe](#)

BE Mercy: Be Cheerful

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

“(You) should endeavor always to have a cheerful countenance ...”

- ❖ Essential Questions: How do you show others that you are loving and cheerful? What do you think it means to “have a cheerful countenance”?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): Explain if there is a difference between being cheerful and being happy. Talk about times you have been around people who are positive versus those who are negative. Did it have any effect on you? On the environment surrounding you?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Nonviolence, Racism

Instruct the Ignorant



Enduring Understanding:

God asks us to help people who do not have access to education so they will be better able to contribute to society.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine help the people who did not have access to school? Are there people you know who have difficulty learning? How can you and your family help people who do not have access to school? How can you help other students in your neighborhood learn?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): Is being educated bigger than just the subjects you learn? How has your education affected you besides increasing your knowledge? Reflect on opportunities you have had to develop every part of yourself. Education is necessary to the development of society and the thriving of its people. How was this so in Catherine’s time? How is this so now?

Catherine’s Story:

“The children, ragged and dirty, flocked here not only to be clothed and fed, but to learn. Catherine, so like her father before her, had an amazing influence on these little ones. She told them stories about Jesus and talked to them about their Catholic faith beneath the tree in the garden. She taught them her favorite prayers ... These little ones began to realize that Jesus

was their friend and that he was with them just as He was with the people in the stories.” (Reid 31)

“The works in the Convent of Mercy continued to bring new life to little orphan girls and to many who attended school every day. These little ones were taught to read and write but most important of all they were taught about Jesus. They saw Jesus at work loving them through the sisters who cooked for them and who kept them neat and tidy. They met Jesus in the sisters who tucked them into bed and often dried their tears before kissing them goodnight.” (Reid 55)

Quotes from Catherine:

“No work of charity can be more productive of good to society, or more conducive to the happiness of the poor than the careful instruction of women, since whatever be the station they are destined to fill, their example and advice will always possess influence.”

“How can we teach the love of God if our own hearts are cold?”

“It is not sufficient that Jesus Christ be formed in us - He must be recognized in our conduct.”

“Reduce to practice one virtue after the manner of Jesus Christ, and then another ... until you go through the whole science of salvation.”

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ “Jesus said, ‘I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life...and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.’” John 14:6, 8:32
- ❖ “‘Enter by the narrow gate..For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life ...’” Matthew 7:13-14
- ❖ “Jesus had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd: and He began to teach them many things.” Mark 6:34
- ❖ “‘Your light must shine before all so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Abba.’” Matthew 5:16

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Saints Andrew Kim Taegan, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions](#)
- ❖ [Cesar Chavez](#)
- ❖ [Dorothy Day](#); [Additional link for Dorothy Day](#)
- ❖ [Pope John XXIII](#)
- ❖ [Saint Francis Xavier](#)

BE Mercy: Live in the Present

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

“The simplest and most practical lesson I know ... is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow. Let us take one day only in hand, at a time, merely making a

resolve for tomorrow. Thus we may hope to get on, taking short, careful steps, not great strides.”

- ❖ Essential Questions: Have you noticed what is around you right now? What did you do today to make life better for you and others?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): Define and discuss what it means to live in the past. Give examples. Define and discuss worrying about the future. Give examples. Why is living in the present important?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Immigration, Women, Racism, Nonviolence

Counsel the Doubtful



Enduring Understanding:

God asks us to turn to the Holy Spirit and ask for help when someone asks us for advice.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine counsel the people whom she met? Who do you trust when you need advice? Do you put your interests aside when giving someone advice? Do you think of yourself or the other person when you give advice to a friend?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): What is the best piece of advice you have ever received? Ever given? Tell the story of a time you were able to offer counsel. Who are your best advisors? How do good leaders “counsel the doubtful”?

Catherine’s Story:

“On occasions when a sister would come looking for Mother Catherine, it wasn’t unusual to find ‘high jinx’ in the dormitory. A ‘hooley’ would often be in progress and dear Mother in the middle of the floor, dancing her feet off surrounded by dozens of bare feet flogging the floor boards with her ... Mother Catherine would never deprive the children of their fun. They had little enough to enjoy or laugh about. One day, when one very devout Sister spoke to her about the ‘hooleys’ and how they were breaking the rule of silence in the dormitory, Catherine very gently reminded her that rules were indeed important, but ‘if we pull the strings too tightly they will break.’” (Reid 58)

Quotes from Catherine:

“Show your instructions in actions as much as you can.”

“Now and again bestow some praise.”

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ “Jesus said, ‘If you wish to enter into life, keep the Commandments.’” Matthew 19:17
- ❖ “Jesus said, ‘Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you ... Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.’” John 14:27
- ❖ “‘Good teacher what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said, ‘You know the commandments.’ The man replied, ‘Teacher, all these things I have observed from my youth.’ And Jesus looked upon him and loved him.” Mark 10:17-21
- ❖ King Solomon asks God for wisdom and right judgement. 1 Kings 3:5-13

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Juan Diego](#)
- ❖ [St. Paul](#)
- ❖ [St. Francis de Sales](#)

BE Mercy: Show Integrity

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

“Try to act at all times and places, that if our Divine Lord were to appear on earth again, he might not be ashamed to point you out as one intimately united with him.”

“It is not sufficient that Jesus Christ be formed in us; he must be recognized in our conduct.”

- ❖ Essential Questions: How are you truthful in your life? How are you fair with other people?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): Describe the attitudes and actions of a follower of Jesus. Do you see those attitudes and actions in the world around you? Where do you find good examples in our school? Describe them.

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Immigration, Racism, Women, Nonviolence

Comfort the Sorrowful - Comfort the Afflicted



Enduring Understanding:

God comforts us, like a mother comforts her child. We need to be present to the people around us, so we can give comfort.

Essential Questions:

How was Catherine present to the people who were suffering around her? Do you see the sadness in the people around you? How can you listen and comfort them with love? What action can you take to give comfort?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): Sometimes “being with” a person is more important than “doing for” them. Think of times this may be true. During the time of the epidemic, Catherine and her sisters could not cure the sick, but they could be with them. Reflect on what it might feel like to have worked with Catherine and her sisters. Why would it be valuable to be spiritually grounded, calm and centered?

Catherine’s Story:

“Death stalked the whole population of Dublin that year. Cholera, a most deadly disease, swept over the entire city ... Medicines were just not available and many poor patients lay dying in agony on the floor. The Sisters were the only consolation these poor people had. Day after day and night after night, they held the hands of dying mothers, fathers, and young children bringing them the only comfort they possessed ... Hour by hour, they crawled on hands and knees soothing the sobs of little ones dying on the cold, damp floors of that awful Townsend Street hospital.” (Reid 56)

Quotes from Catherine:

“While we place all of our confidence in God, we must act as if all depended on our exertion.”

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ “Come to Me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you.” Matthew 11:28
- ❖ “So humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries upon Him because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6-7
- ❖ When Jesus’s friend Lazarus died, He went to comfort Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus. The Bible says when Jesus saw them weeping, He was deeply moved and He wept with them. John 11:33-35

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Clare of Assisi](#)
- ❖ [Maximilian Kolbe](#)
- ❖ [Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton](#)
- ❖ [Jean Vanier](#)
- ❖ [St. Andre Bessette](#)

BE Mercy: Embody Peace and Justice

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

“Never speak with contempt of any nation, profession, or class of people ...”

- ❖ Essential Questions: How do you bring peace to your life? How do you speak with kindness about all people?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): How do you react when you hear racist, sexist or other divisive language? What peace and justice issues make you an activist?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Immigration, Women, Racism, Nonviolence

Bear Wrongs Patiently



Enduring Understanding:

God asks us to be welcoming and patient with those around even when we are aware of their imperfections and limitations.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine show patience with those she taught and helped? Can you look at someone who annoys you with patience and see them differently? Can you be like Jesus, see others with love?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): It is hard to hit roadblocks when trying to do good. Compare and contrast some of Catherine’s roadblocks with ones that you have faced. Do roadblocks ever serve a positive purpose? What attitudes are helpful when facing adversity?

Catherine’s Story:

“While many of the problems encountered in the various places concerned the wretched conditions of the sick and the poor, it was often ... (others) who made life more difficult for the Sisters. Sometimes promises that were made were broken and in a few instances the accommodation provided was not at all healthy. But difficulties like these did not stand in the way of the works of mercy being carried out.” (Reid 63)

Quotes from Catherine:

“No one becomes perfect at once; as from little faults we fall into great, so by the practice of lesser virtues we ascend to the heroic.”

“Try to meet all with peace and ease.”

“Remember, if there were a hundred regulations to be observed, the most important of these is Charity.”

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ “Jesus said, ‘You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well.” Matthew 5:38-39
- ❖ “My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.” Matthew 5:44-46
- ❖ “Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other.” Colossians 3:13
- ❖ “Love is patient; love is kind ...” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Pope Francis speaking on forgiveness in families.](#)
- ❖ [Saint Therese of Lisieux](#)
- ❖ [St. Bernard](#)
- ❖ [St. Joan of Arc](#)
- ❖ [St. Jeanne Jugan](#)

BE Mercy: Be Kind

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

“There are three things that the poor prize more highly than gold, tho’ they cost the donor nothing; among these are the kind word, the gentle, compassionate look, and the patient hearing of their sorrows.”
- ❖ Essential Questions: How do you listen thoughtfully to other people? How do you show kindness to others?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): How can a kind word or act change someone’s day? How would the world be different if everyone were kind? How would our school be different if everyone were kind?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Nonviolence

Forgive All Injuries - Forgive Offenses Willingly



Enduring Understanding:

God asks us to forgive others as he forgives us.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine demonstrate forgiveness to people who hurt her? What do you do when someone hurts you? How do you feel when someone forgives you? In what ways can you let someone know you have forgiven them?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): Making a dream, a reality is never easy. There can be hurt feelings between and among people. Imagine how Catherine felt as she tried to do things differently. Why was forgiveness necessary for her to continue her work? Discuss this statement: Forgiveness is necessary in every group.

Catherine's Story:

“Why isn't she a religious? What is she trying to prove? Is she trying to show people up? Start something new?’ These and similar questions were being asked by some members of the clergy. In nineteenth century Ireland ... one doesn't lift one's head above the level of conformity, except in very clearly defined ways - or in battle! This was especially true for women ... It is easy to see why some of the Irish clergy were concerned. Catherine was not officially a member of a religious order, yet the home she had built had been approved and blessed by the archbishop ... (They) had Mass in the chapel. . . Collections were authorized to support the house ... and they even called each other “sister.” Catherine had also asked for and received permission to call her new venture The Institute of Our Blessed Lady of Mercy, at a time in history when there were no such things as secular institutes. A group of women not bound by vows but dedicated to helping the poor was unthinkable in nineteenth-century Ireland. . . Certainly Catherine felt strongly the ambiguity of the situation and the pressure of the hierarchy. (Breault 75)

Quotes from Catherine:

“What would the Charity of God have profited us if His mercy had not come to our aid? Mercy bestows benefits, receives us anew, and pardons again and again even the most ungrateful.”

“How kind and charitable and merciful ought not Sisters (People) of Mercy to be?”

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ “If you forgive the faults of others, your Heavenly Father will forgive you yours. If you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive you.” Matthew 6:14
- ❖ “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Matthew 6:9-13
- ❖ “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34
- ❖ “Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’” Matthew 18:21-22
- ❖ “Forgiveness demonstrates the presence in the world of the love which is more powerful than sin.” Pope Saint John Paul II
- ❖ The Parable of the Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32
- ❖ [The Unforgiving Servant](#)

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Pope Francis speaking on forgiveness in families.](#)
- ❖ “Forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. We seek to say these words every day with a sincere heart and to put into practice what we say. And we remember: it is a solemn pact, a promise that engages us, and it’s an agreement that we make with God.” Saint Augustine
- ❖ [Saint Josephine Bakhita of Sudan](#)
- ❖ [Mahatma Gandhi](#) ; [Video book on Mahatma Gandhi](#)
- ❖ [St. Maria Goretti](#)

BE Mercy: Accept Imperfection

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:

“Let us not feel distressed that others know our faults, we all have our imperfections and shall have them till our death.”
- ❖ Essential Questions: How do you love yourself? How are you kind to yourself when something goes wrong?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grades 4-6): What does it mean to be a perfectionist? Is it wrong to want to do things perfectly? How do you handle your imperfections in yourself? In others? What are healthy attitudes towards making mistakes?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Nonviolence, Women, Racism

Pray for the Living and the Dead



Enduring Understanding:

Praying for someone makes us closer to that person and closer to God.

Essential Questions:

How did Catherine use prayer and action in order to help those around her? How can prayer help you when you're faced with a puzzle or challenge? How can prayer help you when you are feeling sad?

Extension Questions:

(Grades 4-6): Discuss this thought: Prayer connects us all - past, present, and future. How can you deepen your prayer life? How does the act of praying connect us more deeply with God and each other? How did Catherine demonstrate that she was a woman of prayer?

Catherine's Story:

"As the day went by, the sisters came one by one and for the last time and spoke to their beloved friend and mother. Their hearts were breaking. They wanted her suffering to end, yet they didn't want to let her go. For each one, Mother Catherine had a little word of comfort ... By 5 o'clock it was obvious that the journey was nearing its end. The sisters, including those who travelled long journeys from the other convents, continued to sit quietly praying Mother's favorite prayers which she joined in with for as long as she could. She asked for a lighted candle to be placed in her hand, which indicated to the sisters that she knew her time was very close ... Catherine Elizabeth McAuley, in the sixty-fourth year of her life, took the final step out of time to eternity, into the presence of her God." (Reid 67)

Quotes from Catherine:

"Prayer will do more...than all the money in Ireland."

Connection to Scripture:

- ❖ "Ask, and you will receive, Seek and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you. For the one who asks, receives. The one who knocks, enters." Matthew 7:7
- ❖ "Pray as if everything depends on God, and work as if everything depended on you." Saint Ignatius Loyola
- ❖ "Jesus prayed to His father in heaven for Lazarus, 'Father, thank you that you have heard Me. I know that you hear Me always ... ' Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The dead man came out! Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'" John 11:38-44

- ❖ “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone ... This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God: there is one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all.” 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Saints and People of Good Will:

- ❖ [Story of Mother Marie Alphonsine Danil Ghattas of Jerusalem with activities](#)
- ❖ [Saint Catherine of Siena](#)
- ❖ “Pray as if everything depends on God and work as if everything depends on you.” Saint Ignatius of Loyola
- ❖ [St. Rose Philippine Duchesne](#)

BE Mercy: Support What is Good

- ❖ Quotes from Catherine:
 - “Be ever ready to praise, to encourage, to stimulate, but slow to censure, and still more slow to condemn.”
 - “Let us rejoice when good is done, no matter by whom it is accomplished.”
- ❖ Essential Questions: How do you celebrate another person’s goodness? How do you encourage people in your life?
- ❖ Extension Questions (grade 4-6): How can we best support what is good in our family, our school, among our friends, in our communities, and in our world? What single thing do you think can bring about the most change?

Connection to the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns:

Nonviolence

Resources

Resources on the Works of Mercy:

- ❖ [Works of Mercy](#)
- ❖ [Corporal Works of Mercy](#)
- ❖ [Spiritual Works of Mercy](#)
- ❖ [Catherine quotes](#)
- ❖ [Music video slideshow on the Works of Mercy](#)
- ❖ [Corporal Works of Mercy presented by Kindergarten students.](#)
- ❖ [Youth Mercy Associates](#)
- ❖ [Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#)
- ❖ [Video slideshow on the Works of Mercy](#)
- ❖ [Beautiful Mercy](#)

Suggested Children's Books on The Works of Mercy, Saints, and People of Good Will:

- ❖ Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy; Davison, Kenneth [Works of Mercy](#)
- ❖ The Works of Mercy Explained; Vecchini, Silvia, 2015, Pauline Books & Media, Boston, MA
- ❖ The Works of Mercy; Father Lovasik, S.V.D. , 1982, Catholic Book Publishing Corp, NJ
- ❖ Harvesting Hope -The Story of Cesar Chavez; Krull, Kathleen, 2003, Scholastic, Inc.
- ❖ Gandhi; Demi, 2001, Scholastic, Inc.
- ❖ Freedom on the Menu - The Greensboro Sit-Ins; Weatherford, Carole, 2005, Puffin Books
- ❖ Rachel - The Story of Rachel Carson; Ehrlich, Amy, 2003, Harcourt Books
- ❖ If a Bus Could Talk - The Story of Rosa Parks; Ringgold, Faith, 2003, Alladin Paperbacks
- ❖ The Other Side; Woodson, Jacqueline, 2001, G.P. Putman's Sons, New York
- ❖ Each Kindness; Woodson, Jacqueline, 2012, Nancy Paulsen Books, New York
- ❖ Dear Children of the Earth; Schimmel, Schim, 1994, North Word Press, Wisconsin
- ❖ We're All Wonders; Palacio, R.J., 2017, Random House Children's Books, New York

Lesson Activities:

- ❖ [Works of Mercy Tree](#)
- ❖ [Works of Mercy Tableau](#)
- ❖ [Turning to God in Times of Tragedy](#)
- ❖ [Works of Mercy](#)
- ❖ [A Pinch of Flour and Faith](#)
- ❖ [Works of Mercy for Younger Students](#)
- ❖ [They'll Know I'm a Christian](#)

- ❖ [The Language of Truth](#)

Service Learning

The Basics of Service Learning:

As you prepare to do service with your students, you may wish to consider moving to a service learning experience.

Service learning can enhance a student's experience of outreach. With service learning, service activities are paired with structured preparation and student reflection. By linking curriculum and service experiences, students' experiences become memorable and life changing.

Service learning includes the following steps:

1. Before the service opportunity, students spend time learning about the organization and/or people they are working with and for. Students have lessons focusing on the situation that led to the need in the community and are challenged to think about the causes and needs of the people being served. Students connect the service project to curriculum through class discussion, writing pieces or other activities.
2. Students engage in the activity.
3. Students reflect on and discuss their participation.

The goal of service learning is to allow students to reflect on their experience to deepen and enhance it. Service learning encourages civic responsibility and citizenship. It helps to develop educational risk taking. It connects the students to others and develops community. Students begin to become agents of change for justice. They talk about societal issues of needs, fairness, privileges, rights, responsibilities, and duties. Even the youngest students can articulate the importance of being fair and giving others what they need. Service learning encourages students to express cross-curricular ties and they come to scaffold their service experience to their previous learning.

Suggested Reading on Moving from Service to Service Learning

- ❖ *Ferman, Carl E., White, George P. and White, Louis J. Service Learning in the Middle School, Columbus: National Middle School Association, 1996*
- ❖ *Lake, Vickie E. and Jones, Ithel. Service Learning in the Pre-K - 3 Classroom, Minneapolis: Free Spirit Publishing Inc., 2012*

Suggested Service Activities:

- ❖ [Service Ideas Related to Works of Mercy](#)
- ❖ [50 Corporal Works of Mercy Ideas](#)

- ❖ Create service clubs or activities such as "Friends of Mercy," "Witness To Mercy," "Mercy Ministries" and/or "Mercy On The Move" as possible names.
- ❖ Host monthly Tea Parties within or from within your community as outreach.
- ❖ Reach out and connect with other Mercy schools to discover their needs or for brainstorming ideas about service learning.

Catherine McAuley

Books for the Teacher:

- ❖ Bochan, Ulana M. [*Living with Catherine McAuley*](#). IUniverse, 2010.
- ❖ Breault, William. [*The Lady from Dublin*](#). Landmark Enterprises, 1990.
- ❖ Burns, Helen Marie, and Sheila Carney. [*Praying with Catherine McAuley*](#). Word Among Us, 1996.
- ❖ ["Catherine McAuley, A Cloak of Many Colors."](#) *The MAST Journal: The Journal of the Mercy Association in Scripture and Theology*. Vol.8, No.1, Fall 1997.
- ❖ Colgan, Denise M., and Doris Gottemoeller. [*Union and Charity: the Story of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas*](#). Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, 2017.
- ❖ [*Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy*](#), Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.
- ❖ O'Sullivan, Micheal, and John Flitcroft. *Catherine McAuley: a Woman Who Stood Midway between Vulnerability and Possibility*. Boolarong Press, 2017.
- ❖ Peddigrew, Brenda. [*Luminous Ordinary: Catherine McAuley's Living Presence of Love*](#). iUniverse COM, 2018.
- ❖ [*Praying in the Spirit of Catherine McAuley: a Collection of Prayers*](#). Liturgy Training Publications, 1999.
- ❖ Regan, Joanna. *Tender Courage*. Franciscan Press, 1988 (out of print - check convents or [used editions](#))
- ❖ *Remember Me Affectionately to All*. Mercy Association South Central Community, 1996.
- ❖ Sullivan, Mary C. [*Catherine McAuley and the Tradition of Mercy*](#). Four Courts Press, 1995.
- ❖ Sullivan, Mary C. [*The Path of Mercy: the Life of Catherine McAuley*](#). Catholic Univ. of America Press, 2012.
- ❖ Sullivan, Mary C. *The Practical Sayings of Catherine McAuley: with a New Preface, Introduction, and Appendix*. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, 2010. ([free ebook](#))
- ❖ Schneider, Annette. [*A Lens on the Works of Mercy: Clare Agnew and her Legacy*](#). Mercy International Association, 2019
- ❖ Walsh, Anne. [*A Visit to Catherine's House, The First House of Mercy*](#). Mercy International Association. 2017

Student books:

- ❖ Bolster, M. Angela *Catherine McAuley and the story of a woman of prayer and compassion. : foundress, Sisters of Mercy, Dublin, 1831*. Sadifa, Ostwald (Strasbourg), France, 1982.
- ❖ Fanning, Regina. *Kitty's Tea-Party*. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, 2016.
- ❖ O'Sullivan, Micheal, and John Flitcroft. *Catherine McAuley: a Woman Who Stood Midway between Vulnerability and Possibility*. Boolarong Press, 2017. (Grades 4-6)
- ❖ O'Sullivan, Micheal, and John Flitcroft. *Catherine McAuley Friend of All*. Boolarong Press, 2017. (Grades 4-6)
- ❖ Reid, Anne, and Leonard Shiel. *Daring to Be Different: the Life of Catherine Elizabeth McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy*. Mercy International Associates, 1996. (Grades 4-6)
- ❖ Walsh, Anne. *A Visit to Catherine's House, The First House of Mercy*. Mercy International Association, 2017. (Grades 4-6)

Suggested Videos:

- ❖ [In God Alone](#), Grades 4-6
- ❖ [Circle of Mercy](#)
- ❖ [Worthy of the Name](#)
- ❖ [Every Move](#)

Suggested Websites:

- ❖ [Catherine's Dublin](#)
- ❖ [Introducing Catherine McAuley](#)
- ❖ [Chronology](#)
- ❖ [Canonisation Cause](#)
- ❖ [Words From Catherine](#)
- ❖ [Mercy Foundresses](#)
- ❖ [On This Day](#)
- ❖ [Quote of the Day](#)
- ❖ [Conversation Circles](#)
- ❖ [Mercy International Global Action](#)
- ❖ [Mary Wickham Poetry and Spirituality](#)
- ❖ [Mercy Prayers](#)
- ❖ [Life and Legacy of Catherine McAuley](#)
- ❖ [Mercy Resources Australia](#)
- ❖ [Catherine McAuley Lesson](#)
- ❖ Mercy-ing App. Available on iTunes and Google Play

Suggested Songs:

- ❖ [Circle of Mercy](#)
- ❖ [Love One Another Lullaby](#)
- ❖ [Love One Another](#)

- ❖ [All Things Bright and Beautiful](#)
- ❖ [For the Beauty of the Earth](#)
- ❖ [Trust and Obey](#)
- ❖ [I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord](#)
- ❖ [What a Friend We Have in Jesus](#)
- ❖ [Happy All the Time](#)
- ❖ Suscipe of Catherine McAuley [Suscipe - GMA](#)
- ❖ [Children's Suscipe](#)

Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy

Definitions for the Teacher

Critical Concern: Earth

We believe in the need to work toward the sustainability of life and support movements and legislation that secure the fundamental right to water for everyone, and that address climate change. That leads us to examine our own behaviors and policies and to adopt more environmentally sustainable practices. We also advocate against hydrofracking; against mining that impacts indigenous and impoverished communities; for regulations that protect land, air and water; and for national and international agreements that mitigate climate change and ensure support for those most vulnerable to its effects.

Critical Concern: Immigration

We reverence the dignity of each person and believe everyone has the right to a decent home, livelihood, education and healthcare. In the United States we work for just and humane immigration laws, a reduction in deportations that tear families apart, and an end to the detention bed quota. We look at the root causes of immigration, including U.S. policies that contribute to the economic and social conditions that push people to flee their countries, and the global impact of migration through our reality as an international community of women religious.

Critical Concern: Nonviolence

We work for peace through prayer, education, and personal and communal practices of nonviolence. We support nuclear disarmament, reduction of arms, and the use of dialogue instead of armed conflict. We work to prevent domestic violence and abuse of women and children, stop human trafficking and reduce violence in our communities. That leads us to advocate for commonsense gun violence prevention legislation, an end to the death penalty, an end to the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, and dialogue with Syria and Iran.

Critical Concern: Anti-Racism

We believe racism is an evil affecting us all. We work to mobilize sisters and associates in recognizing and dismantling institutional racism in order to become an anti-racist multicultural

community. We advocate for upholding the voting rights of marginalized Americans and for a fair criminal justice system, and point out racism wherever it exists.

Critical Concern: Women

We believe that women's education, health and spirituality need special attention. We continue this mission in our schools, colleges, health-care institutions and spirituality centers. We advocate for equal pay, for services for domestic violence victims, and for the rights of girls and women in especially repressive societies.

Critical Concern Definitions for Students

Earth:

We care for and protect the earth and all creation.

Immigration:

We welcome, respect and help families who are forced to flee their home country.

Nonviolence:

We are peaceful and respectful even when we disagree.

Anti-Racism:

We celebrate all people, treat them with kindness and stand up for them if they are treated cruelly.

Women:

All people are equal and deserve to be treated equally.

Works Cited

- Bochan, Ulana M. *Living with Catherine McAuley*. IUniverse, 2010.
- Bolster, M. Angela *Catherine McAuley and the story of a woman of prayer and compassion. : foundress, Sisters of Mercy, Dublin, 1831*. Sadifa, Ostwald (Strasbourg), France, 1982.
- Breault, William. *The Lady from Dublin*. Landmark Enterprises, 1990.
- Burns, Helen M, and Shelia Carney. *Praying with Catherine McAuley*. Matthew James Publishing Ltd., 1996.
- “Catherine McAuley, A Cloak of Many Colors.” *The Mast Journal The Journal of the Mercy Association in Scripture and Theology*, vol. 8, no. 1, Fall. 1997,
- Colgan, Denise M., and Doris Gottemoeller. *Union and Charity: the Story of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas*. Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, 2017.
- Colgan, Denise M., and Doris Gottemoeller. *Union and Charity: the Story of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas*. Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, 2017.
- Davison, Kenneth. *Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy*. Holy Heroes, 2016.
- Draves-Arpaia, Neil. “Catherine McAuley: Going to the Threshold for Mercy.” *The Mast Journal The Journal of the Mercy Association in Scripture and Theology*, vol. 9, no. 1, Fall. 1997, p. 47.
- Fanning, Regina. *Kitty's Tea-Party*. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, 2016.
- Fertman, Carl I., et al. *Service Learning in the Middle School: Building a Culture of Service*. National Middle School Association, 1996.
- Kelly, Regina, et al. *"Remember Me Affectionately to All": M.C. McAuley*. Institute of the Sisters of Mercy, 1997.
- Koontz, Christian. “Strange Attractor in a Quantum World.” *The Mast Journal The Journal of the Mercy Association in Scripture and Theology*, vol. 8, no. 1, Fall. 1997, p. 10.

Lake, Vickie E., and Ithel Jones. *Service Learning in the PreK-3 Classroom the What, Why, and How-to Guide for Every Teacher*. Free Spirit Publ., 2012.

Lovasik, Lawrence. *The Works of Mercy*. Catholic Book Publishing Corp., 1982.

Morning and Evening Prayer Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, 1998.

Mullan, Don. *The Little Book of Catherine of Dublin*. a little book company, 2005.

O'Sullivan, Micheal, and John Flitcroft. *Catherine McAuley Friend of All*. Boolarong Press, 2017.

O'Sullivan, Micheal, and John Flitcroft. *Catherine McAuley, a Woman Who Stood Midway between Vulnerability and Possibility*. Boolarong Press, 2017.

Peddigrew, Brenda. *Luminous Ordinary: Catherine McAuley's Living Presence of Love*.

iUniverse COM, 2018.

Praying in the Spirit of Catherine McAuley: a Collection of Prayers. Liturgy Training Publications, 1999.

Regan, Joanna. *Tender Courage*. Franciscan Press, 1988.

Reid, Anne, and Leonard Shiel. *Daring to Be Different: the Life of Catherine Elizabeth McAuley, Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy*. Mercy International Associates, 1996.

Sullivan, Mary C. *Catherine McAuley and the Tradition of Mercy*. Four Courts Press, 1995.

Sullivan, Mary C. *The Path of Mercy: the Life of Catherine McAuley*. Catholic Univ. of America Press, 2012.

Sullivan, Mary C. *The Practical Sayings of Catherine McAuley: with a New Preface, Introduction, and Appendix*. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, 2010.

Sunderman, Marilyn. "Catherine McAuley and the Option for the Poor." *The Mast Journal The Journal of the Mercy Association in Scripture and Theology*, vol. 9, no. 1, Fall. 1997, p. 23.

Vecchini, Sylvia. *The Works of Mercy Explained*. Pauline Books & Media, 2015.

Walsh, Anne. *A Visit to Catherine's House, The First House of Mercy*. Mercy International Association, 2017.

[Images used in this curriculum guide purchased through HenMama Designs.](#)