

# Hospitality and Welcoming Heart

## Introductory Prayer

Catherine McAuley was a woman of open and welcoming heart. She was always inclusive. She helped those who came to the House of Mercy each day and she went out in service to those in need. Catherine put no restrictions on her work of mercy, all were included in her loving outreach. To her Mercy welcomes....the ungrateful again and again and is never weary of pardoning them. (*Familiar Instructions*)



## Scripture: Romans 15:7 13-14

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and are able to instruct one another.

## Intercessions

Rain down your love on us, O God of Mercy. Fill us with the spirit of compassion and justice. Guide us to merciful ways and enable us, with Catherine McAuley and Mary, Our Lady of Mercy, to sing your praise. We come before you today to pray for all those in need of your mercy.

For those most vulnerable to oppression or neglect, we pray:

*Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For those who seek a kind word, a gentle compassionate look, or the patient hearing of their sorrow, we pray:

*Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For those who are poor, sick or uneducated we pray:

*Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For those who are need of safe shelter, warm clothes or nourishing food, we pray:

*Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For those struggling to forgive or be forgiven, we pray:

*Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For those seeing justice for themselves or others, we pray:

*Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For those who serve others through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, we pray:

*Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

## **Reflection Questions**

We, like Catherine, are called to be leaders with welcoming hearts.

- When have you looked for opportunities to practice inclusion and welcome?
- Take a moment to consider how you can be a more welcoming leader.

## **Closing Prayer**

God of mercy and compassion, fill us with the same spirit of obedience and love that filled Catherine McAuley. Through her intercession, may we be people of mercy and justice, welcoming all to our table. Give us the confidence in you that will sustain us and give us life. May your desires come to fulfillment in and through us. Amen

## **Sources**

*Be as Shining Lamps*, p 51

*Intercessions of Mercy*