



Atawhaingia a Papatūānuku

Mercy to Earth #2

Giving Thanks for People

Preparation

*Heart shapes for each person, pencil/pen, create a Mercy prayer focus.
Pictures of Catherine McAuley, founding sisters from your area, significant people
in the wider community, present sisters known to the school community...
Have final prayer written for all to see.*

PRAYER TIME

Leader:

Blessing:

In the name of God the creator, Jesus who shows us the way to love and peace,
and the Spirit who breathes through all things.

Amen.

He aha te mea nui ki tenei ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.
What is the most important thing in the world? It's people, people, people.

We know many people who are good examples to us - people in our families, our school,
our city, our country, in the world. Some of these people are still alive, and others we know
from the stories about them. Let's take a moment to think about these special people -
someone we know, and maybe someone we've heard about.

*Play reflective music and invite children to write names on a heart paper and
quietly place in prayer centre. Or you might invite them to read the names on their heart
as they place them in the prayer centre. When finished ...*

Sing a song of thanks or, pray together: For all these wonderful people, we give thanks.

Because we are a Mercy school, we also remember Catherine McAuley, the foundress
of the Sisters of Mercy. Catherine began the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland
way back in 1831. Catherine and the Sisters worked with the poor people,
teaching the women and children and caring for the sick and dying.

When the Sisters came to Aotearoa New Zealand, they continued this work.
(Remember founding Sisters from your area.)

Mercy Thoughts

Voice 1

If we love God, we will undoubtedly love our neighbor also: they are as cause and effect.
Catherine McAuley



Voice 2

Let us set our hearts on him who lives forever.

M Cecilia Maher

Voice 3

Mea ana te atawhai haere mai i runga i te aroha me te awahi.

Mercy invites us to love and to care.

Catherine McAuley

Reading:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Waiata

Circle of Mercy, or other relevant waiata.

Litany

Today, we continue the work of Catherine McAuley here in our school.

And so we pray:

Voice 4

Each person has special gifts. Each person is an image of God.

Response: Help us to respect all life as Catherine did

Voice 5

Every culture offers new ways of living.

Response: Help us to respect all life as Catherine did

Voice 6

We are part of our own families, and the school family, with many gifts to share.

Response: Help us to respect all life as Catherine did

Leader:

Kia inoi tatou – let us pray the prayer of Catherine McAuley:

ALL: My God, I belong to you forever.

Teach me to trust in you because I know you love me
and will always be near me.

Help me always to obey you, even when it's hard.

May I always know that you are my God
and your presence is within us
and all around us.

Amen.

Blessing:

In the name of God the creator,
Jesus who shows us the way to love and peace,
and the Spirit who breathes through all things.

Amen.

Used with permission from
Mercy Mission Formation
Network Season of Creation
resources, inspired by work
of Norm Habel