

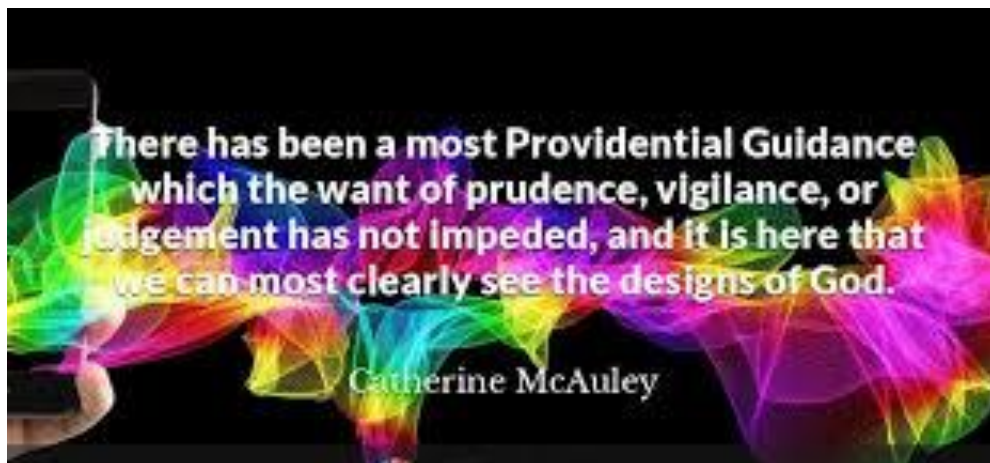
Mercy Day Reflection – September 24, 2022

Song: *Salve Regina* (The Irish Tenors)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dzXe9y4FKo&list=PLZEmXcl1LGYhBv04AzOmEA1oNfzN-urlx&index=8>

Introduction:

Sometime during 1827 a very fortuitous and providential meeting took place in Dublin between 26-year-old Anna Maria Doyle and heiress, Catherine McAuley. When Anna Maria learned of Catherine's plans for the house on Baggot Street which was then under construction, she was drawn into Catherine's dream and was eager to begin this ministry immediately. Catherine, however, was torn by her many responsibilities: to the five children of her deceased sister, Mary; to her two adopted cousins and to the orphans living at Coolock House. In addition, she was still responsible for the ongoing management of Coolock House. But Anna Maria's zeal persisted, and Catherine finally agreed to have her cousin, Catherine Byrne join Anna Maria at Baggot Street to begin the ministry dear to both their hearts. Hidden behind the well-adorned houses of the wealthy in the area around Baggot Street were alleyways and slum areas where families lived in utter poverty and misery, an ideal place for the ministry they envisioned. With the two younger women enthusiastic to begin this challenging and exciting undertaking, Catherine chose September 24, 1827 as the opening date for the house on Baggot Street. It was only later that she realized that this date was the feast of Our Lady of Mercy. According to Sister Mary Sullivan, both Catherine and Anna Maria agreed to place the infant establishment under the patronage of the Mother of God, with the title "*of the most amiable of her attributes by which she resembles Him whose mercies are above all His works.*" (Derry Large Manuscript, likely written by Anna Maria Doyle)



Take a few moments to reflect on the Introduction and the quotation from Catherine McAuley ...and on the questions below

- **When did you first meet Catherine?**
- **What about her inspired you?**
- **How did you/do you sustain your relationship with her?**

Prayer Response:

***Faithful God, You continue to call us to ventures
in which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden, by challenges unknown***

***Give us faith to believe in our potential,
courage and generosity to be available for your purposes,
hope and fidelity to continue the journey, not knowing where we go
but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us***

***To You, our God, whose power at work in us can do
immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine –
to You, God of Boundless Mercy, be glory and praise
now and forever. Amen.***

Blessing:

**May the God of Mercy bless us, embrace us, and open us to mystery and beauty
AMEN**

**May Our Lady of Mercy protect and guide us in all our comings and goings ...
AMEN**

**May Catherine McAuley, Woman of Mercy, inspire us and keep us faithful to
the ways of mercy each day ...
AMEN**