

Recapturing Our Original Love-Our Lady of Mount Carmel July 16, 2023

Catherine's Call

Catherine's Room, Window
The warmth
of a late summer Dublin evening
reaches across acres of Georgian
chimney pots
and
flows
through two vast rectangles of
light
as I sit in the room
in which a woman died
over one hundred and fifty years ago.

I am awed at the mystery of her calling,
the grace which grew in her.
What is she to me
and I to her? ...

I ask for some glimmer of knowing,
some small window on her spirit,
a blessing as I sit here,
of kinship and connection,
of mentor and sister-guide,
of bonds across time,
a mercy shared. Mary Wickham, rsm

Francis Creedon's Call



Recapturing Our Original Love

The Mercy Star

(For Catherine McAuley, inspired and inspiring still)

When you found the quality of Mercy –
a burning compassion shining in your heart
like a pulsing star –
you fell in love with its blinding
protective intensity.
It became your guide.
It led you through deserts dry with old dust
and mountains of unbearable heights
with no beaten paths for guides....

It was the Mercy Star that led you
unerringly through lands
as unknown as the moon....
Later, it led you home, leaving us –
the daughters you would never know –
who also glimpsed the Mercy Star
through your eyes –
to find and follow it, navigating
as many unknowns as you did
yourself....
through the Mercy Star
guiding our hearts.
That's what you plucked down
from the heavens
and embodied:
no less shining
even as our monuments fall down;
even as our works transform
beyond recognition
and our numbers dwindle and disappear –
the Mercy Star continues to shine
finding receptive hearts
unknown
in worlds yet to emerge.

Brenda Peddigrew, rsm

Reflection

- ✚ *What is Catherine to me and I to her?*
- ✚ *Francis Creedon "left this House [Baggot Street] ...having entered the Order for the purpose of establishing a Convent ... in that mission, 1842". How am I / are we recapturing our original love- the Mercy Star - a mercy shared?*



Blessings from the first Convent of Mercy

May the blessings of this house-
A house
Imagined in unlikeliness,
Dreamt with daring,
Built with love,
Founded on mercy-

Speak to your spirit
In whatever room in the world you are reading,
In whatever place you are called to mercy.
Mary Wickham, rsm