

## Prayer – Foundation at Sandy Point, July 1893

**Song:** *Suscipe of Catherine McAuley or Circle of Mercy*



Let us go back in time to Sandy Point, Bay St. George on Friday, July 28, 1893. The SS *Harlow*, carrying four Sisters of Mercy from Providence, Rhode Island has just docked at the wharf. Sisters Antonio Egan, Corsini Dempsey, Sylvester Carver and Veronica Payne make their way down the gangplank, accompanied by a friend, Mrs. Henrietta Brownell and Bishop Howley, Prefect Apostolic of Newfoundland's west coast. The people waiting on the dock are excited – there are loud shouts of welcome, evergreen arches, gunfire salvos and speeches. The August 12 account of the arrival in the *Evening Telegram* gives some idea of what that welcome was like:

*The people displayed unbounded enthusiasm and interest in the arrival of the nuns and flocked around them in their own simple way as the harbingers of great future blessing to this place*

Sit with this scene ...visualize it ... the crude huts, the sparse landscape, the muddy footpaths ...this was mission territory, far removed from the well-kept buildings, stately trees and green fields of Rhode Island. Let your thoughts and feelings surface ...

- *What do you think these sisters might have been feeling – excited? anxious? relieved? enthusiastic? fearful? hopeful?*
- *What would you like to say to them as they begin their mission?*

### **Let us pray:**

Bountiful and merciful God,  
We come in awe and thanksgiving at the wonders You have done and continue to do through your people. We thank You for these women of Mercy who dared to respond to the call of Mercy on this day. Help us to recognize your calls to us and give us the trust and the courage to respond with generous spirits and full hearts. Amen

### **Readings:**

- ***The Lord goes before you and will be with you. Your God will never leave you or desert you. (Deut. 31:8)***

- ***Give and it will be given to you- a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. (Luke 6:38)***
- ***There has been a marked Providential guidance which the want of prudence, vigilance or judgement has not impeded, and it is here that we can most clearly see the designs of God. (Catherine McAuley)***

... Reflection and Sharing ...

- *What might these readings be saying to me at this point in my Mercy journey?*
- *What might they be saying about our “mercying together into the future?”*

**Prayer Response:**

Loving and provident God, help us to trust in your slow work. We are quite impatient in everything. To reach the end without delay we would like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient on the way to something unknown, something new, and You are a God of newness, a God of surprises. Help us to let our ideas mature gradually, let them grow and shape themselves, without undue haste. Only You can say what this newness gradually forming in our beings and in our lives will be. Help us, God of mercy, to believe that You hold our present and our future, and that your hand is leading us and guiding us. Teach us to be women of wisdom, women of trust, women of mercy. We ask all of this, knowing the power of your Spirit at work in us and among us. Amen  
(adapted from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)

**Blessing:** (Judith Walker-Riggs)

May the power and the mystery go before us to show us the way ... AMEN  
 May it shine above us to lighten our world ... AMEN  
 May it lie beneath us to bear us up...AMEN  
 May it walk with us and give us companionship...AMEN  
 May it glow and flow within us to bring us joy...AMEN

