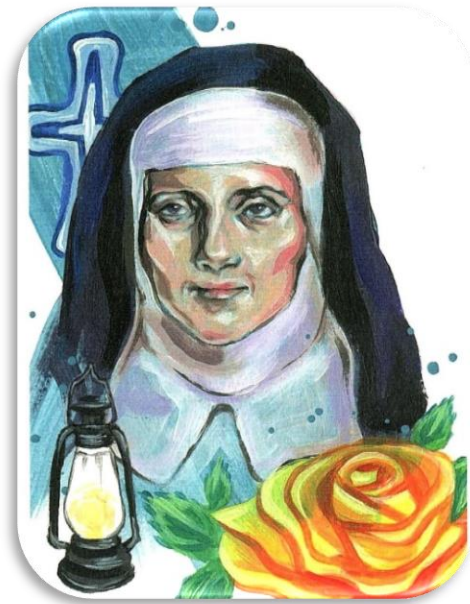




# The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland

## Mercy Associates

Image of Catherine McAuley from Book Two – “Be as Shining  
Lamps” by Caroline Thompson



## Chapter 8: Appendices

- 8.a Basic Terms**
- 8.b Marianne Creedon**
- 8.c Circle of Mercy (Hymn)**

## 8.a– BASIC TERMS

Advocacy	Activity by an individual or group which aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions. It includes activities that a person or organization undertakes including letter-writing and speaking at meetings. *
Chapter	The highest governing authority of the Congregation is the Chapter, held every four years. It has legislative, executive and policy making power. In the period between Chapters, authority is vested in the Congregational Leader. Three Congregational members assist the Congregational Leader in exercising the role of leadership and together they make up the Congregational Leadership Team (CLT). These four members of the CLT are elected by delegates at each Chapter.
Charism	A gift given to Christians by the Holy Spirit for the good of the Church. Founders of religious institutes are said to have received a particular charism that urges and inspires them to commit their lives to living the gospel with a special emphasis on the insights that are the gift of their charism.
Community	A multi-faceted word, for Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland, community refers to Sisters living together within the Province of Newfoundland and in the Mission in Peru sharing the charism of mercy. At a more general level, community refers to a group of people who belong together because of a shared characteristic; for Mercy Associates, community refers to their local group.
Commitment Statement	After an aspiring Mercy Associate has completed the formation process and been accepted as a suitable candidate, they are invited to attend a ceremony at which they publicly pronounce their commitment to be a Mercy Associate, and to undertake particular ministries.
Discernment	The process of determining God's desire in a current situation or for one's life. * Discernment usually involves a period of prayer and reflection as one seeks to hear God's desire. Though this is an individual undertaking, the counsel of others is often sought as options are considered.
Formation	A process a person willingly undergoes when they want to learn more about a faith tradition and develop their personal spirituality within it. It is usually some months or even years in duration, and the learnings gained will allow the person to make decisions about their calling in life. Candidates to become a Sister of Mercy undergo a period of formation, as do Mercy Associates.
Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy	The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland is a community of Catholic Religious Sisters in Newfoundland founded in 1842 and includes the establishment of a Mission in 1961 in Peru.

Mercy International Association (MIA)	Mercy International Association is an organization of the leaders of Mercy Congregations, Institutes and Federations throughout the world, founded to serve the Sisters of Mercy, their associates and colleagues in ministry. Members of the Association share the passion of their foundress, Catherine McAuley, to bring mercy to people who are poor, sick and uneducated. ~
Mercy	The disposition to be kind and forgiving. Founded on compassion, mercy differs from compassion or the feeling of sympathy, by putting this feeling into practice with a readiness to assist. It is therefore the ready willingness to help anyone in need, especially in need of pardon or reconciliation.
Mercy Associate	Lay women and men who have undertaken a formation process and been accepted to make a public commitment (see Commitment Statement above). They cherish the virtue and practice of mercy in their lives, and seek a faith community to nurture their commitment to mercy; meet for prayer, formation, reflection, and to engage in service initiatives based on mercy and justice within and beyond their local community; and ‘associate’ with each other and with the Sisters of Mercy, complementing and extending the work of the Sisters in Newfoundland.
Ministry	Ministry is the expression of mission through activity we undertake to advance the reign of God. It is based on the life of Jesus, whose ministry was to teach and heal. Christians are called, through their baptism, to undertake ministry according to their gifts, in response to needs local and distant. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy are examples of ministry, indicating that prayer and one’s inner disposition are aspects of ministry as are our active ways to serving the world.
Mission	In Christianity, mission refers to all baptized persons being ‘sent’ to continue the work of Jesus Christ in advancing the reign of God by expressing the love of God in word and action.
Prayer	Prayer, at its most simple, is the practice of placing oneself in reverence before God, being open to experiencing the presence of God. Prayer will sometimes comprise formal, written prayers that are said either privately or in a group of other Christians; it might also be practices such as reflection, meditation, silence, sacred reading ( <i>lectio divina</i> ). For a Mercy Associate, prayer for others may be a form of ministry.
Service	Service is an expression of ministry, based on identifying the needs of others and responding to those needs in a practical way that alleviates suffering or disadvantage and upholds the dignity of those being served.

Spirituality	One of our gifts as human beings is the ability to consider what meaning of life holds, and in particular, what is the meaning of our own life. For many people, spirituality involves religious faith such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, including others, while for others the meaning of life they perceive in life does not involve a particular religious tradition.
Sister of Mercy	A Sister of Mercy is a woman who responds to the call to know God's loving kindness and commits her life to sharing this with others through a life of service. Sisters of Mercy make life-long vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and in this case, become a member of a community of Catholic religious women called the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland.
Suscipe	This is a prayer of offering written by Catherine McAuley as an expression of her total commitment to loving and serving God. It is of special importance to Sisters of Mercy around the world and often Mercy Associates also pray and sing this prayer.
Vision	It takes us beyond our daily lives and guides us to live in such a way that the vision might one day become reality. In Christianity the ultimate vision focuses on the love of God and the reign of God. For Mercy Associates, the Vision Statement describes how Mercy Associates strive to bring mercy and justice into their own lives and to participate fruitfully in their local Mercy Associates group.
<p>* Adapted from Wikipedia, <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/">https://en.wikipedia.org/</a>  ~ Adapted from the MIA website, <a href="http://www.mercyworld.org/">http://www.mercyworld.org/</a></p>	

## 8.b MARIANNE CREEDON (1811 - 1855)

Marianne Creedon, the younger daughter of John and Ellen Creedon of Coolowen, County Cork, was baptized on December 5, 1811. Nothing is known of her early childhood except that her father died in the summer of 1817 when she was not yet six years of age. Five years later, on May 12, 1822, her older sister, Ellen, married John Valentine Nugent of Waterford. A number of references have been found to support the theory that after Ellen Creedon married John Valentine Nugent she brought her ten-year old sister, Marianne, to live with her in Waterford. It is true that – to date – no record of the death of Marianne’s mother, Ellen Creedon, has been found. However, it is unlikely that a widow residing in Cork would have been able to provide her daughter with the superior educational opportunities that we know Marianne enjoyed. The Nugents, on the other hand, were all highly educated and John Valentine Nugent was an educator by profession. Growing up in such a family would account for Marianne’s well-rounded educational development.

And so the years passed. It is not unreasonable to presume that young Marianne Creedon was available to look after her sister’s children and to do her share of household chores. Church records in Waterford show that she was godmother to three of the Nugent children, an interesting sidelight on the close relationship that existed between the two sisters. The Nugent household was not, by any means, a haven of peace and quiet. John Nugent, a devout Catholic, an ardent Irish patriot and not the most patient of men, was frequently in trouble with the English authorities. Eventually, in 1833, Nugent received an invitation from Bishop Michael Anthony Fleming of Newfoundland to move to St. John’s and establish a school for “young gentlemen”. At the time, John Nugent’s invalid mother and his sister, Maria, were living with the family. Maria Nugent had been accepted as a novice by the Ursulines but after a year’s novitiate her health broke down and she was forced to return to her brother’s home. We can only imagine Ellen Nugent’s reaction at the prospect of a lengthy ocean voyage with the responsibility of caring for two invalids and four small children. Her sister, Marianne, was now a young lady of twenty-one. No doubt she had her own friends and her own plans that may not have included a long voyage across the ocean to some unknown land.

*But Ellen need not have worried – young Marianne Creedon – even at twenty-one, was available to help wherever there was need of her services. She agreed to go with her sister to this New-Found-Land.*

...

[Download the complete article](#) (PDF)

A biography written by Kathrine E. Bellamy rsm

## **8.c Circle of Mercy (hymn) by Jeannette Goglia rsm**

In Mercy, we touch the hearts of those who are in mis'ry.

In Mercy, we're touched by them and feel their strength and courage.

In Mercy, we heal the pain of those who are in sorrow.

In Mercy, we're healed by them and see the face of hope.

*Ref.:* For the circle of Mercy is timeless: it is Spirit of Life itself

Which roots us in Faith, and lifts us in Hope,

And holds us in God's loving care,

And holds us in God's loving care.

In Mercy, we welcome those the world has left rejected.

In Mercy, we're drawn within the loving heart of God.

In Mercy, we forgive the incompleteness in another.

In Mercy, our sins are healed and we are whole again. [Ref.]

In Mercy, the Spirit Faith will root us in God's Presence.

In Mercy, the Spirit Hope will lift us out of doubt.

In Mercy, the Love of God will be our joy in living.

In Mercy, we join with one another on our journey. [Ref.]

<https://vimeo.com/289904911>