



Vol. 7/No. 4 - April 2024

Kitty's Chronicle

Mercy Associates Newsletter

Prayers for the Sick

Let us pray for the sick, especially our Associates, Sisters of Mercy, family members, friends and care-givers. May God touch them with comfort, healing and strength.

We pray for people who are on our list this week – Jaxon McKinney (Sister Maureen O'Keefe's grandnephew), Diane Hickey (sister-in-law of Cathy Hickey), Theresa Lacey (sister of Annie Brown), Marilyn Thurston, Patricia King, Sylvia Flood, Kevin Drover (husband of Geraldine Drover), Marion Bonia (sister of Anne Marie Davis), and Gabrielle Knight.

(If you wish to have your name or another person's name added to or removed from this list please let Sharon Drover know. (drover.sharon@yahoo.ca))



Prayer for the Sick

Through the Intercession of Catherine McAuley

God of Love and Mercy,
You inspired Catherine McAuley,
To serve your Son by responding

To the needs of her time.
Moved by her care for the Sick,
We ask that through Her Prayers
You reach out with Your Healing Love
And restore them to full health
We ask this in complete
Confidence through Jesus Christ, Your Son
Amen.
Catherine McAuley, Pray For Us
Amen.



Barbara & Eric – April 5th

Light a Candle

Let us continue, in solidarity with Mercy Sisters, Associates and Colleagues around the world, to light a candle and pray for justice and peace.



From the Wisdom Circles

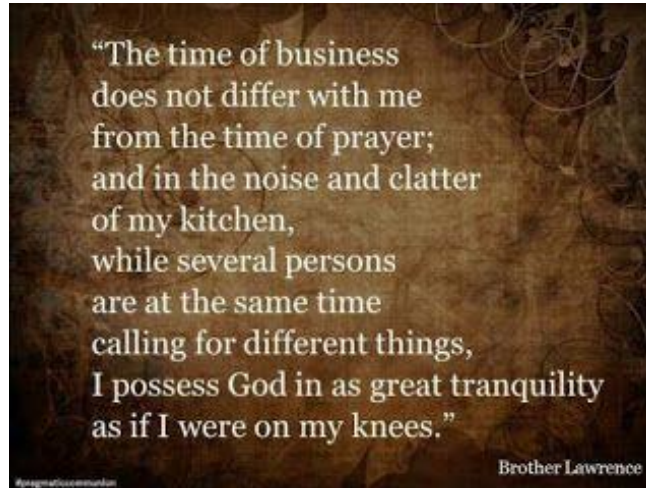
Circle of Compassion



I would rather make
mistakes in kindness
and compassion than
work miracles in
unkindness and
hardness.

MOTHER TERESA

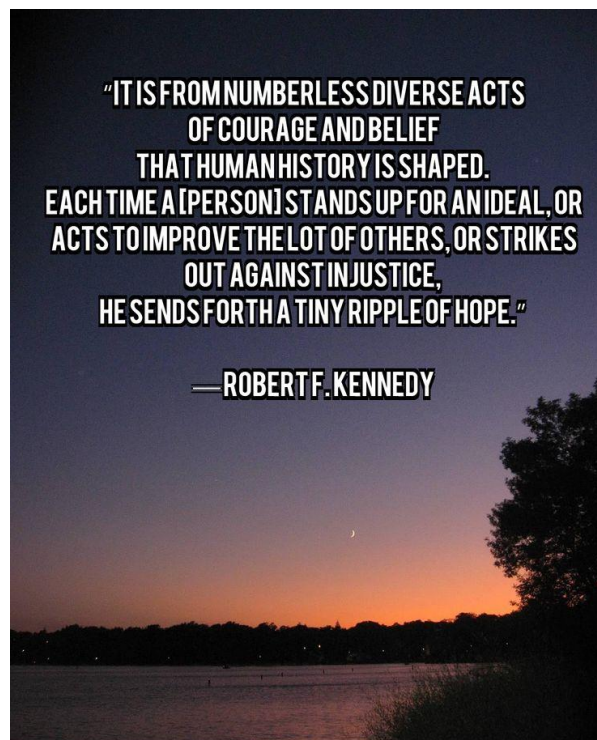
Contemplative Presence



Integrity of Creation



Diversity and Inclusion



WWW.PINTEREST.COM/CAROLBRUSEGAR



Notes from the Associates/Sisters

ITEMS OF INTEREST



Three theories exist regarding the origin of April's name. Some say April got its name from the Latin word meaning "second" since April was the second month on the ancient calendar. Others claim it comes from "aperire", a Latin word meaning "to open", because it represents the opening of buds and flowers in spring. Still others think April was named after the goddess Aphrodite.



Saint Zita - April 27th

St. Zita was born into a poor but holy Christian family. Her older sister became a Cistercian nun and her uncle Graziano was a hermit whom the local people regarded as a saint.

Zita herself always tried to do God's will obediently whenever it was pointed out to her by her mother. At the age of twelve Zita became a housekeeper in the house of a rich weaver in Lucca, Italy, eight miles from her home at Monte Sagrati. As things turned out, she stayed with that family for the last forty-eight years of her life. She found time every day to attend Mass and to recite many prayers, as well as to carry out her household duties so perfectly that the other servants were jealous of her. Indeed, her work was part of her religion! She use to say: "a servant is not holy if she is not busy; lazy people of our position is fake holiness." At first, her employers were upset by her generous gifts of food to the poor, but in time, they were completely won over by her patience and goodness and she became a very close friend.

St. Zita was given free reign over her working schedule and busied herself with visits to the sick and those in prison. Word spread rapidly in Lucca of her good deeds and the heavenly visions that appeared to her. She was sought out by the important people, and at her death in 1278 the people acclaimed her as a saint. She is the patroness of domestic workers.

Her feast day is April 27.

EARTH DAY

Monday, April 22



No matter how you choose to honor nature, make it positive.
We need a healthy Planet Earth to thrive, and Planet Earth needs us.

TO OUR FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH FAITH



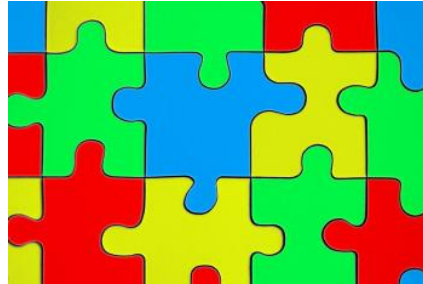
Passover begins before sundown
on **Monday, April 22, 2024**, and ends
after nightfall on **April 30, 2024**.

Events in April 2024

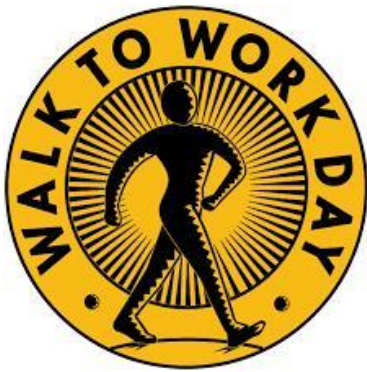
April 2, 2024
Autism Awareness Day

When we wear **blue**, it's not only about keeping that conversation going about autism but, it's also making sure that those with autism and their families don't

feel alone. So on April 2nd and throughout World Autism Month in April please wear blue, and have others do the same.



April 3, 2024
National Walk to Work Day



Monday, April 8th

Look up [Total solar eclipse](#)



Women in Canadian History



Marcelle Ferron (1924-2001)

Quebec painter and stained glass artist. Marcelle Ferron is the only female artist who signed Les Automatistes' polemical manifesto, *Refus Global*, in 1948. Her paintings were hung in all the major Automatiste exhibitions. Her painting technique became progressively forceful with vibrant colours and thick paint. Ferron changed her medium to stained glass after 1964. Her most known stained glass pieces are those in Champ-de-Mars and Vendôme metro stations in Montreal, which were installed in 1968. The Champs-de-Mars window masterpiece is sixty metres long and nine metres high and dapples the station with coloured light. Ferron was also an associate professor at Laval University in Quebec City and became a Grand Officer of the National Order of Quebec in 2000. *Photo: Copyright Pierre Longtin*



Hannah (Annie) Gale (1876-1970)

First alderwoman in the British Empire. When Annie Gale and her husband William immigrated to Calgary from England in 1912 she was appalled by the high costs of housing and food. Determined to change things, she helped to establish a local consumers' league. A strong advocate for workers and women, she helped to organize the Women's Ratepayers' Association and it was this group of women who asked her to run for city council in 1917. Gale won a seat to become the first woman elected to municipal office in the British Empire. She also broke new ground when, while in office, she occasionally served as acting mayor. Gale's non-partisan approach inspired other reformers, including Nellie McClung.



Anne Hébert (1916-2000)

A writer whose work was universally recognized in all francophone countries. Anne Hébert won all the major awards in France and Belgium and the Governor General's Award for fiction three times in Canada. She wrote poems, stories, novels, and plays that captured the tumult of human emotions against the backdrop of Quebec history. Hébert began writing at an early age and worked at both the National Film Board and Radio-Canada from 1950 to 1954. From there she went on to live in Paris for almost the rest of her life. The sense of a conquered society struggling to erupt and to break all obstacles is the fierce energy behind the three-dozen works she authored. *Photo: lapresse.ca*



Adelaide Hoodless (1857-1910)

Educational reformer and founder of the Women's Institute. Adelaide Hoodless began her public life with the death of her infant son, who had consumed tainted milk. The tragedy inspired her to set about making sure that more women were educated in matters of domestic science, and she began pushing for home economics courses to be taught in Ontario public schools. She was also a powerful force behind the formation of three faculties of household science. Working with Lady Aberdeen, wife of the Governor General, she helped to found the National Council of Women, the Victorian Order of Nurses, and the national YWCA. *Photo: Wikipedia*



Poetry Pause

Aprilian by Bliss Carman

When April came with sunshine
And showers and lilac bloom,
My heart with sudden gladness
Was like a fragrant room.

Her eyes were heaven's own azure,
As deep as God's own truth.
Her soul was made of rapture
And mystery and youth.

She knew the sorry burden
Of all the ancient years.
Yet could not dwell with sadness
And memory and tears.

With her there was no shadow
Of failure nor despair,
But only loving joyance.
O Heart, how glad we were!





From Kitty's Kitchen

Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 c. salted butter, divided
- 1 c. chopped onion
- 1 c. chopped carrot
- 1 c. chopped celery
- 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 3 c. low-sodium chicken broth, divided
- 4 1/2 c. shredded cooked turkey or chicken
- 1 c. frozen peas
- 1/2 c. heavy cream
- 1 tbsp. chopped fresh thyme
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 tsp. ground turmeric
- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 6-oz. packages Savory flavored stuffing mix
- 1/4 c. chopped fresh parsley, plus more for garnish



Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 375°F.

In an oven pot, melt 1/2 cup of the butter over medium-high heat. Add the onion, carrot, and celery, and cook until the vegetables are beginning to soften, about 3 minutes. Sprinkle the flour over the vegetable mixture and cook, stirring frequently, for 1 minute.

Gradually stir in 1 1/2 cups of the chicken broth. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat medium-low. Simmer, stirring often, for about 5 minutes or until the sauce begins to thicken. Stir in the chicken, peas, cream, thyme, salt, pepper, and turmeric. Return to a simmer and cook for 3 minutes more.

Spray a 13-by-9-inch baking dish with nonstick spray and pour in the turkey/chicken mixture. Place the remaining 1/2 cup of butter in a large, microwave safe bowl. Cover and cook on high for 1 minute to melt. Stir in the stuffing mix, remaining 1 1/2 cups of chicken broth, and the parsley. Let stand 2 minutes or until the stuffing mix has absorbed the broth.

Top the turkey/chicken mixture evenly with the stuffing mixture. Bake until golden brown on top and bubbly around the edges, 30 to 35 minutes. Let stand 15 minutes. Sprinkle with additional chopped parsley before serving.

NOTE: I have also used leftover ham for this recipe.



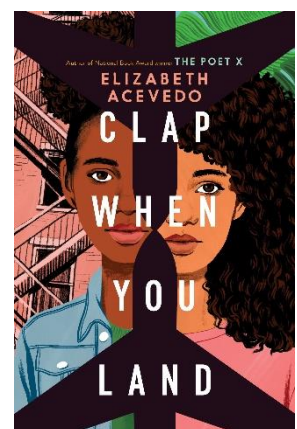
From Kitty's Library

CLAP WHEN YOU LAND

by: Elizabeth Acevedo

In a novel-in-verse that brims with grief and love, the difficulty of forgiveness, and the bittersweet bonds that shape our lives.

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...



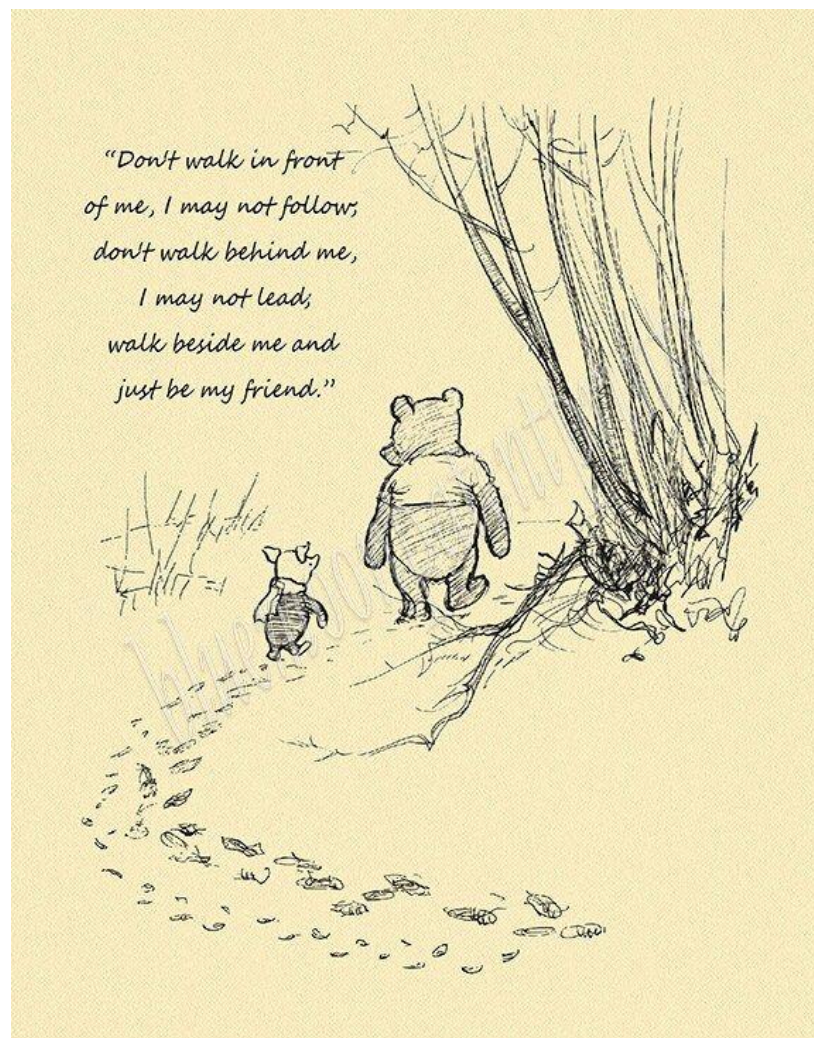
In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.

Separated by distance—and Papi’s secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.

And then, when it seems like they’ve lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.



Pause for Thought



STORMS AND TEACUPS: AN ACROSTIC ON THE LEADERSHIP OF CATHERINE MCAULEY

(This article was first published in the ISMA Journal Listen, Vol. 22, No. 1, 2004.)

Part IV

Includer

It is clear that Catherine had very different views of the world from Sister Clare Augustine Moore. From Clare Augustine Moore's pen we have the opinion that Catherine was sometimes too lenient with children, that she on occasion indulged them. Clare Augustine Moore describes with obvious distaste the scene that had been described to her by others of the soup kitchen that operated for a time in the early days at Baggot St for the poor of the parish:

There was soup to be made for a hundred, sometimes more, and they had to pass through the office down to the dining hall in squadrons, and this by a wooden staircase now replaced by stone, so there was work and dirt and discontent, as well as derangement of the office business and inconvenience of the House of Mercy. [ix]

It is Clare Augustine Moore, however, who also notes Catherine's regard for the Sisters and her deep feeling at the deaths of so many in the early years. "She had a really tender affection for us." [x] There is no doubt she is speaking from personal experience.

Of Clare Augustine Moore Catherine wrote with some degree of exasperation to Frances Warde:

Sister Mary Clare [Augustine] Moore is a character, not suited to my taste or my ability to govern, though possessing many very estimable points. She teased and perplexed me so much about the difficulty of copying the two pages, that I was really obliged to give up, unwilling to command lest it should produce disedifying consequences. She said it would take the entire Lent. Indeed, you can have no idea how little she does in a week. As to a day's work, it is laughable to look at it. She will show me three leaves, saying, "I finished these today." Three rose or lily leaves. (311)

Elsewhere however, we indirectly glimpse Catherine's appreciation of the refinements possessed by Clare Augustine Moore. Writing of one of the new English Sisters, Catherine heaps high praise by way of comparison:

Sister Beckett, a convert of high connections, is quite equal to Sister Moore in all arts and sciences, languages, paintings, etc....

The point of this is to highlight Catherine's ability as leader to be inclusive, even when it meant she was not entirely at ease, or compatible with, nor indeed fully appreciative of the gifts of the person. Difference was not anathema to her, even if she struggled with it. Mercy, as exemplified by Catherine, does not exclude; it is not possessive of its own power or territory. The fact is that whilst she may not have had much patience with Clare Augustine Moore's artistic temperament, she was able to acknowledge, by accommodating it, that the woman was as much a Sister of Mercy as anyone else. Catherine was sufficiently humble to realize her own blind spot with regard to Clare Augustine Moore. The "leader" is not the only arbiter of the collective wisdom. And who today, could deny the richness and beauty of that artistic gift and its link with Catherine, that Clare Augustine Moore left to us?

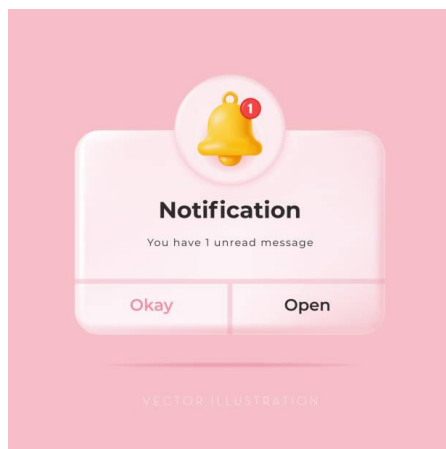
Outside the front door of Mercy International Centre is a contemporary bronze sculpture by Michael Bourke. It features slightly larger than life figures: a nun, presumably Catherine, and a woman with a baby in her arms. It is titled Circle of Mercy. The odd thing about it though is that it is *not* a circle, but literally a penannular, an incomplete circle: it only becomes truly a circle when the observer steps in the ambit of the figures and completes the scene, accepting the tacit invitation to be included in the dynamic.

In some ways that is how it seems to have been with Catherine's sense of Mercy, that Mercy is an invitation that gathers in and includes all. Often in her letters, she remarks on her reluctance to refuse aspirants who had insufficient dowry, so necessary in the early days for supporting the women's information. In response to the suggestion of abandoning a particular mission, she replied: "Are not the poor of Charleville as dear to Him as elsewhere?" (p. 107) Her leadership as includer modeled an openness of heart and hand. It is a truly inspiring figure that stands in bronze outside her front door today: one hand supporting the mother and baby, the other reaching out in welcome to the onlooker, whoever that may be, passing by 64A Lower Baggot St, on any Dublin day.

Next Month, Catherine: Nurturer

A Short Story entitled: *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde

<https://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/SelGia.shtml>



1 New Message

Mercy Associate Spring Gathering, Saturday, April 27th, 2024
at 10:00 am in the Recreation Hall at Littledale

Please come and join your fellow Mercy Associates so that we can welcome Spring with prayer and reflection, meet dear friends we have not seen in a while, catch up on the latest Mercy news, and enjoy a *Good Cup of Tea* in each other's company.



The Last Word...

"We have one solid comfort amidst this little tripping about, our hearts can always be in the same place, centered in God, for whom alone we go forward or stay back."

Catherine McAuley