



**Vol. 7/No. 6 - June 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 Sister Theresa Boland.

(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](mailto: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.



### ***Happy Birthday Wishes to ...***

Cathy Hickey	June 18 <sup>th</sup>
Sister Maureen	June 18 <sup>th</sup>

### ***Happy Anniversary Wishes to ...***

Joanne & Ed	June 10 <sup>th</sup>
Sharon & Bill	June 26 <sup>th</sup>
Barbara & George	June 28 <sup>th</sup>





### *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*

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”

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Maya Angelou

### *Contemplative Presence*

“Seeking the face of God in everything, everyone, all the time, and his hand in every happening; this is what it means to be contemplative in the heart of the world. Seeing and adoring the presence of Jesus, especially in the lowly appearance of bread, and in the distressing disguise of the poor.”

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Mother Teresa

## Integrity of Creation

*“Do you think God is sleeping on a pillow in heaven?...God is wholly present in all of creation, in every corner, behind you and before you. If you truly understood a grain of wheat, you would die of wonder.”*

---

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

## Diversity and Inclusion

*“It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.”*

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Andre Lorde



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**“We’ve been taught that God did not make the world for no reason, but for the sake of the human race. As I said before, he takes pleasure in those who imitate his attributes, and is displeased with those who embrace what is worthless, whether in word or deed.” – St. Justin Martyr**

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## Notes from the Associates/Sisters

### ITEMS OF INTEREST



June 17<sup>th</sup> – Feast Day of St. Emily de Vialar, Virgin, Foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph "of the Apparition"

Anne Marguerite Adelaide Emily de Vialar was the eldest child and only daughter of Baron James Augustine de Vialar and his wife Antoinette, She was born at Gaillac in Languedoc in 1797.

For fifteen years, Emily was the good angel of Gaillac, devoting herself to the care of children neglected by their parents and to the help of the poor generally.

In her attempts to help the poor, the old and the destitute, Emily invited them to the house, causing considerable tension in the household. Other young women joined her efforts. In 1832 her maternal grandfather left her an inheritance, with which she bought a house for herself and her companions.

Her brother Agostino lived in French Algeria and proposed to open a hospital in Boufarik, near Algiers. Emily and her first companions arrived at a time of an outbreak of cholera. She used the money her grandfather left her to open hospitals and schools. Emily and 17 other sisters received a formal approval for the rule of congregation in 1835.

In 1845, Emily was on her way from Tunisia to Algeria when the ship on which she was traveling was caught in a terrible storm for nine days. Emily vowed "that wherever they landed safe and sound, she would open a house and dedicate it to St

Paul”. The ship came to rest at Malta, where St. Paul had also been shipwrecked. There Emily opened one of the first Catholic schools for young ladies.

The foundress, saw her Congregation grow from one to some forty houses in 22 years. The physical energy and achievements of St. Emily de Vialar are the more remarkable in that from her youth she was troubled by hernia, contracted in doing a deed of charity. From 1850 this became more and more serious, and it hastened her end, which came on August 24, 1856. The burden of her last testament to her Sisters was "Love one another". Her canonization took place in 1951; her feast is June 17th.



June is a great month.

School's out. The days are long. The weather's warm.

Perhaps the Anglo-Saxons—who spoke that linguistic ancestor of English known as Old English—were onto something when they collectively called June and July *Liða*. That's pronounced like [ **lee**-*thuh* ], with the character *ð* having the voiced *th*-, like *this*. *Liða* itself may mean “calm” or “mild.” On its own, June was sometimes also referred to as *Ærra-Liða*, which is like “ere/first *Liða*,” and July *Æftera-Liða*, or “after/second *Liða*.”

So, how did the sixth month of the year go from *Liða* to *June*?

Where did *June* come from?

*June* ultimately comes from the the Latin *Iunius*, “of Juno (Iuno),” referring to the Roman goddess. The *J* sound for the *I* in Latin’s *Iuno* emerges in French, and its spelling with the letter *J* didn’t settle in English until the late 1600s.

The name *Iuno* itself appears to come from the Latin *iuventas*, “youth,” which is related to words like *juvenile* and *rejuvenate*. In ancient Rome, *Iunius* was the fourth month of the year in a 10-month calendar.

While *Iunius* was sometimes used alongside *Ærra-Liða* in Old English and Middle English, *June* took over, along with the other ancient Roman names for the months of the year, with the spread of Christianity in England in the Middle Ages.



## ***Women in Canadian History***



### **Julia Verlyn LaMarsh (1924–1980)**

Author, lawyer, broadcaster, novelist, and Canadian politician. In 1963, Julia “Judy” LaMarsh became the second female cabinet minister in the House of Commons. She sat in Prime Minister Lester Pearson’s Cabinet as the minister of national health and welfare and minister of amateur sport from 1963 to 1965. During this time the Canada Pension Plan was implemented and the Canadian medicare system was designed. LaMarsh served as secretary of state from 1965 to 1968 where she oversaw the centennial year celebrations, brought in the new

Broadcasting Act, which introduced many of the core features of today’s broadcasting policy, and established the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada. *Photo: Copyright Health and Welfare Canada*





### **Nellie McClung (1873–1951)**

Novelist, reformer, journalist, and suffragist. Nellie McClung was a leader in the fight to enfranchise North American women. Her efforts led to Manitoba becoming the first province to grant women the right to vote in 1916, followed by Alberta and Saskatchewan. After a move from Manitoba to Alberta, she was elected to the Alberta Assembly as a Liberal member for Edmonton in 1921. In the legislature, McClung often worked with Irene Parlby of the governing United Farmers of Alberta party on issues affecting women and children. Both were members of the

Famous Five. McClung was also the first female director of the board of the governors of the CBC and was chosen as a delegate to the League of Nations in Geneva in 1938.



### **Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874–1942)**

An author with an enduring legacy. Lucy Maud Montgomery is most famous for being the creator of “Anne,” the redheaded orphan from *Anne of Green Gables*. Published in 1908, the book made Prince Edward Island famous around the world. Montgomery had a consummate literary career, publishing twenty novels, more than 530 short stories, 500 poems, and thirty essays. Raised by strict grandparents, she was a lonely, isolated child, with a vivid imagination. Later, she moved to Ontario, where she struggled with her husband’s religious melancholia, and the

challenges of being wife, mother, and manse mistress. She also fought lawsuits with her publisher and with her own ill health. Long after her death, Montgomery’s legacy continues with the enduring popularity of “Anne,” a character so vivid that we can all visualize her immediately.





### **Angelina Napolitano (1882–1932)**

Brought domestic abuse to national awareness. Little is known of Angelina Napolitano's tragic life, outside of the fact that she was an Italian immigrant who in 1911 killed her abusive husband with an axe as he slept, was convicted of murder, and was sentenced to hang. Since abuse could not be used as a defence, the case ignited enormous debate and a flood of petitions asking that her life be spared. It brought the "battered woman" defence into the spotlight and highlighted inequities in the law. On July 14, 1911, the federal Cabinet commuted her sentence to life

imprisonment. She was granted parole in 1922 and is believed to have died in 1932. *Photo: Lina Giorno Felice pictured as the lead character, Angelina Napolitano in the 2005 movie, Looking for Angelina.*



## **Poetry Pause**

### **Ode To The Month Of June**

O June, thou art the sweetest time of year,  
When Sol's warm rays upon the Earth do gleam,  
And skies of azure, pure and crystal clear,  
Awaken life from Winter's wistful dream.

Thy days, they stretch with golden light, so long,  
As Nature dons her verdant, vibrant dress,  
With fragrant blooms, in gardens, she belongs,  
And scents the air with whispered tenderness.

Children in joyous merriment do play,  
Beneath the azure canopy above,  
As fireflies twinkle in the twilight's gray,  
In June, we find pure beauty, peace, and love.

'Tis in this month that love's sweet fires ignite,  
Romance blooms with a grace so divine,  
Hand in hand, we wander in the night,  
Beneath the stars, our hearts and souls entwine.

June, thou art a gift, so pure and rare,  
A season of enchantment, love, and tune,  
In thy warm embrace, we find solace there,  
Ode to the cherished, lovely month of June.

**Dr Shamim Ali**



*"Prayer is the best preparation for Holy Communion. Prayer is the raising of the mind to God. When we pray we go to meet Christ Who is coming to us. If our Creator and Savior comes from heaven with such great love, it is only fitting that we should go meet Him. And this is what we do when we spend some time in prayer." - St. Bernadine of Siena*



*From Kitty's Kitchen*

## Santa Fe Chicken Foil Packets

### Ingredients

- 2 c. quick-cooking white rice
- 1 3/4 c. low-sodium chicken broth or water
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- Kosher salt
- 4 (6-oz.) skinless, boneless chicken breasts
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 (15-oz.) can black beans
- 2 small red or orange bell peppers, stemmed, seeded, and thinly sliced
- 1 1/2 c. fresh or frozen corn (from about 2 ears)
- 1 1/2 c. mild or medium salsa
- 1 c. shredded Mexican cheese
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 lime, cut into wedges



### Directions

#### Step 1

Preheat oven to 425°F

#### Step 2

Season chicken with 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper. Arrange 4 (16"-by-12") pieces of foil on a work surface. Pull up sides to form into a shallow boat. Drizzle centers with oil. Divide rice mixture and any residual liquid among

foil packets (about a heaping 1/2 cup each). Sprinkle beans, bell pepper, and corn over. Nestle 1 chicken

breast into each foil packet and top with salsa and cheese. Tightly fold foil packets to seal.

### Step 3

Bake for about 25 minutes.

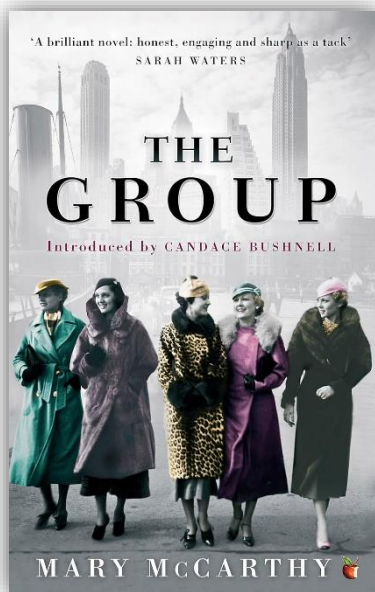
### Step 4

Carefully open foil packets. Top with cilantro and serve with lime wedges alongside.



From Kitty's Library

### A Good Read: *The Group* by Mary McCarthy



Mary McCarthy's most celebrated novel follows the lives of eight Vassar graduates, known simply to their classmates as "the group." An eclectic mix of personalities and upbringings, they meet a week after graduation to watch Kay Strong get married. After the ceremony, the women begin their adult lives—traveling to Europe, tackling the worlds of nursing and publishing, and finding love and heartbreak in the streets of New York City. Through the years, some of the friends grow apart and some become entangled in each other's affairs, but all vow not to become like their mothers and fathers. It is only when one of them passes away that they all come back together again to mourn

the loss of a friend, a confidante, and most importantly, a member of the group.



Father's Day is a holiday honoring one's father, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. In Catholic countries of Europe, it has been celebrated on 19 March as Saint Joseph's Day since the Middle Ages.



### Pause for Thought

“Accept yourself, love yourself, and keep moving forward. If you want to fly,  
you have to give up what weighs you down.”

---

Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*



## Associates and Sisters Celebrate 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



On Saturday, 27 April 2024 about fifty sisters and associates gathered in the Recreation Hall to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the associate relationship. After a welcome by Sisters Maureen O'Keefe, co-coordinator of the associates and Diane Smyth, Congregational Leader, Sr. Monica Hickey presented a brief history of the founding of the associate relationship in Newfoundland. With song and prayer the associates re-committed

themselves in Mercy, remembered associates who had died, and celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with cake and refreshments.



See video of events below:

<https://vimeo.com/942406285/8dd88cb1f1?share=copy> (13 mins)





More wonderful pics!





## **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*

## **Empathsizer**

Our final word from the letters of Catherine's name has been so much part of all that has gone before that it hardly needs saying. As a leader, as a warm-hearted woman, Catherine was possessed of a great capacity for empathy and compassion, and there are ample instances in her life and letters where this can be seen. She was able, because of her openness to God's grace, to make of all the hardships in her own life and any impulse to bitterness or resentment, the saving fact of fellow-feeling rather than self-pity.

One sequence of letters reveals this quality in a very touching way. It involves the story of the illness and death of a young Sister in Limerick, Sister Teresa Vincent de Paul Potter, who had originally entered at Baggot St, and was well known to Catherine. Catherine dedicated some of her numerous verses to this "sweet little poet" and was clearly very fond of her.[\[xi\]](#)

In her several letters to Elizabeth Moore in Limerick during March 1840 we see the progression in Catherine from hope that the young Sister will recover, to the realization that her illness is terminal: "No words could describe what I felt on reading the first line of your letter...the dear sweet innocent creature..." (203) On receiving the news of the "sweet little poet's" death, Catherine reaches out to "my darling" Elizabeth Moore in a shared grief, disarming in its acuity and its solidarity: "I did not think any event in this world could make me feel so much. I have cried heartily and implored God to comfort you..."(204)

Connector

Animator

Teamaker

Humorist  
Enabler  
Risktaker  
Includer  
Nurturer  
Empathizer

I have been playfully but also purposefully engaging with the letters of Catherine's name, the very word *Catherine*, as well as the words of her correspondence that form the most authentic examples of Catherine's self-disclosure with which we are endowed. They are not the only descriptions one could use about her leadership, of course. Traveller, teacher, encourager: perhaps a reading of the letters will give you your own acrostic. Try adjectives.

There is one other aspect of Catherine's leadership that deserves a quick mention. Catherine had a refreshing *normality* that she did not lose with the exercise of leadership. Her leadership did not obscure her humanity. With refreshing candour she writes to Frances Warde, after returning from arduous travel, "Thank God I am at rest again and now I think the name of another foundation would make me sick. But they say I would get up again." (p.237) She was no plaster, gaudily coloured saint but a real person, at times conscious of her own need for care and reassurance. "Do get me through this" she writes to M. De Pazzi Delany in 1837 about the "distressing business" of the withholding of a chaplain for Baggot St. (p.98) To Elizabeth Moore she writes at the end of a letter in 1840, a letter full of the tale of the illness and death of yet another young aspirant, "If you have time, write me a few words of comfort, and say you are well and happy..." (p.218) In August 1841 she twice ends letters to Frances Warde by asking for prayers: "Pray much for your ever affectionate..." and then with touching brevity, "Pray for me. God bless you," which surely must have been a tacit signal to the young woman that her friend was in the grip of a grave illness.

A reflection on Catherine's letters is rather like looking at one of those intricate Celtic knots, the threads of which lead back to the beginning after looping and overlapping, crossing and interweaving. It brings one to a realization that when one speaks of Catherine's leadership qualities one is really dealing with Catherine's

qualities as a Sister of Mercy, and her gifts as a human being. The qualities that made her an exemplary human being and a Christian and a Sister of Mercy are what made her an exemplary leader. There was no disjunction or artifice or straining to be other than what she was: there was rather a confluence of the Spirit's gifts working in this one woman, enlivening the gifts of nature and gifts of grace that flowed on through her life from childhood to Coolock to Baggot St. The triumph of her life was to follow the call of the Spirit as it led her to give expression in all those varied ways, God gradually shaping and refining her to the cause.

We have listened to Catherine herself in the letters and tried to catch the nuances of her own sense of her life as a leader. What did her contemporaries have to say about her? One of the regular recipients of Catherine's letters, her warm confidant and "dear child" Frances Warde, recalls Catherine in a letter of 1879, nearly forty years after her death, and towards the end of her own long and adventurous life:

*You never knew her.  
I knew her better than I had known  
Anybody in my life.  
She was a woman of God,  
And God made her a woman of vision.  
She showed me what it meant  
To be a Sister of Mercy,  
To see the world and its people  
In terms of God's love,  
To love everyone who needed care.  
Now her vision is driving me on.*

How fortunate was Frances Warde. The elementally simple words she uses have a lifetime's fondness of memory behind them, a sense of awe, and perhaps just a very human dash of pride in the unique association she had enjoyed. They sound out like a bell across time with a gospel authenticity. Like all true tributes, they point beyond the writer to the subject herself.

So, let the great lady, Catherine herself, have the last word. The last few letters in the Neumann edition, written just weeks before her death, show Catherine still involved in the practicalities of finance and so on, but it is within the embrace of a

lovely and endearing personal letter that we will conclude. It is a letter that reveals the heart of Catherine's understanding of her own calling, and speaks from the truth of lived experience. In terms of "leadership" it shows a woman who has known Jesus "hand in hand" as her guide and companion, and who dares to invoke for another with warmth and affection the blessing to be "one of His best beloved."

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1841, a little over a month before her death, Catherine writes to the newly professed Sister Mary Joseph Joyce of Galway. Too ill to attend the ceremony, and perhaps with her spirit already sensing the call from this life to the next, this is what Catherine writes with expansive joy to the newest Sister of Mercy:

*How sincerely, how joyfully I congratulate you on the completion of your ardent hopes and wishes. What a sweet and blessed union you have formed. Now it is that...you must prove your love...and gratitude by going hand in hand with your Divine Redeemer. Nothing to interest you but what relates to his greater glory. May He grant you every grace and blessing and make you one of His dearest and best beloved.*

*Pray for your ever affectionate*

*Mary C. McAuley*

## *The Last Word...*

*A community in which this universal charity reigns, is capable of surmounting all difficulties.*

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Catherine McAuley