



Vol. 7/No. 9 - September 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), Sister Theresa Boland and George Bradbury.

(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

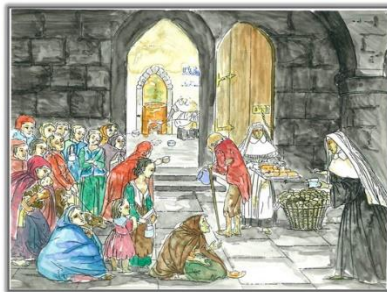
God of Love and Mercy,
You inspired Catherine McAuley,
To serve your Son by responding

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.



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

“True compassion means not only feeling another’s pain
but also being moved to help relieve it.”

hellofearless.com

Contemplative Presence

“The time of business
does not differ with me
from the time of prayer;
and in the noise and clatter
of my kitchen,
while several persons
are at the same time
calling for different things,
I possess God in as great tranquility
as if I were on my knees.”

Brother Lawrence

Integrity of Creation

“Creation is not a property, which we can rule over at will; or, even less, is the property of only a few: Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude.”

Pope Francis

Diversity and Inclusion





Rest with God

The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

- Psalm 50:1



Notes from the Associates/Sisters

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Joan Elizabeth Lucy Bichier (5 July 1773 – 26 August 1838)



Joan Elizabeth was born in 1773 in the Château des Âges, home of her aristocratic family near the village of Le Blanc. She was one of the couple's four children and later was commonly called Elizabeth by her family. Her mother was a religious person and ensured that her daughter was taught how to pray and the basics of the Catholic faith. Elizabeth proved a ready student, already feeling drawn to prayer from her childhood.

After the outbreak of the French Revolution, there were restrictions placed on the practice of the Catholic faith. During this period, two of her brother chose to join the forces of the revolution. Shortly after that, their father fell ill and later died on 16 January 1792.

In 1796, Elizabeth and her mother moved to the family's country home in Béthines called La Guimetière. While living there, Elizabeth began to feel the loss of Religion in her life. Her wish was to consecrate her life to God in

an enclosed religious order. During this period she used to gather people and pray with them.

The following year, a former servant came by the house to inform them that a priest would be presiding at a secret Mass at a farm in Marsyllis, about ten miles away. This was the Abbé Andrew Fournet, the underground pastor of Maillé, who would give Elizabeth a new direction in her life, answering her longings. Elizabeth opened her heart to Fournet and she shared her longing to dedicate herself to God. He asked her to open her home for the catechesis of the local children. Elizabeth asked the permission of her mother, who agreed to this project and a small school slowly began to develop at La Guimetière.

With the signing of the Concordat of 1801 between France and the Holy See under Napoleon, the Catholic Church was able to resume public activity.

Elizabeth and her mother felt it wiser to be closer to Fournet, and relocated to Maillé. They needed a home that would both accommodate the community and provide a place for their work. For this, they were able to acquire the local chateau. In February 1807, the five community members professed religious vows, establishing the new congregation of the Sisters of the Cross.

The small community began to expand quickly, and the schools began to multiply where the Sisters could exercise their ministry to the poor and needy. In 1816 the community received ecclesiastical approval. By 1820 they had expanded again, and a former monastery of the Order of Fontevrault was obtained in La Puye, where their motherhouse was established. It still serves as the congregation's headquarters. Within ten years, there were over sixty communities of Sisters of the Cross. In 1850 they established their first foreign foundation, in Bilbao, Spain.

Elizabeth died in 1838, at which time there were about 600 Daughters of the Cross serving in some 100 communities.

Elizabeth Bichier was beatified by Pope Pius XI in 1934 and canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1947.





September is the ninth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and interchangeably the ninth or tenth month in the less commonly used Julian calendar. In the modern Gregorian calendar, its length is 30 days.

September in the Northern Hemisphere and March in the Southern Hemisphere are seasonally equivalent.

In the Northern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological autumn is on 1 September. In the Southern hemisphere, the beginning of the meteorological spring is on 1 September.

September marks the beginning of the ecclesiastical year in the Eastern Orthodox Church. It is the start of the academic year in many countries of the northern hemisphere, in which children go back to school after the summer break, sometimes on the first day of the month. Some Libras and Virgos are born in September, with Virgos being born on September 1st through September 22nd and Libras September 23rd through September 30.

September (from Latin *septem*, "seven") was originally the seventh month in the oldest known Roman calendar, the calendar of Romulus c. 750 BC, with March being (Latin *Martius*) the first month of the year until perhaps as late as 451 BC. After the calendar reform that added January and February to the beginning of the year, September became the ninth month but retained its name. It had 29 days until the Julian reform, which added a day.



Women in Canadian History



Justice Bertha Wilson (1923-2007)

First woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. Born into a working-class family in Scotland, Bertha Wilson trained in law in Canada. When appointed to the high court in 1982, she already had a track record as a justice with the Ontario Court of Appeal, where she was known for her humane decisions in areas such as human rights and the division of matrimonial property. During her nine years on the Supreme Court, she helped her male colleagues to understand that seemingly neutral laws often operated to the disadvantage of women and minorities. She thus helped usher in groundbreaking

changes to Canadian law. *Photo: Copyright Cochrane Photography*



Jane Wisdom (1884-1975)

One of Canada's first professional social workers and the first head of the Bureau of Social Services in Halifax. Jane Wisdom completed her initial training and education in social work in New York because there were no schools of social work in Canada. She returned to Halifax in 1916 to lead the newly established Bureau of Social Services. She moved to Montreal in 1921 to complete her studies and lectured in social work. She continued her work in Montreal for eighteen years before moving back to Nova Scotia. In 1941 she accepted a position as the first welfare officer for Glace Bay, which made her the first

municipal welfare officer in Nova Scotia. *Photo: nsasw.org*



The Archival Moment

The Archival Moment is contributed by Sister Charlotte Fitzpatrick.

Sister Mary Benedicta Fitzgibbons

Minnie Fitzgibbons was born in St. John's on February 2, 1869, daughter of Margaret and Edmund Fitzgibbon. She was one of the first to study at St. Clair's Boarding School which had opened at the Mercy Convent site in 1861. During her years there, she studied piano under the direction of one of the school's teachers, Professor Hancock. She was among the first to be enrolled at St. Bride's Boarding School when it opened in 1884. After the completion of her studies at St. Brides, Minnie entered the Sisters of Mercy, and at her reception into the novitiate received the name Sister Mary Benedicta. She was professed on December 27, 1887. During her years at St. Bride's Sister M. Benedicta's musical talent was developed under the direction of the highly skilled Sister M. Xaverius Dowsley, and she herself became an accomplished musician. She wrote the music for one of Archbishop Howley's poems, *Dear Old Southside Hills*.

Sister M. Benedicta was one of the last Sisters to teach at St. Peter's School, formerly Fishermen's Hall located on the corner of Queen Street and George Street. It operated as a school from 1881 until 1903, when it was replaced by St. Vincent's School on the "Parade Grounds," where *The Rooms* is situated today. Over its twenty- two- year history many of the sisters from Mercy Convent taught at St. Peter's.

After Amalgamation in 1916, Sister M. Benedicta was named the first novice mistress for the new Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland. In 1922 at the completion of her six-year term at the Novitiate, she went as superior of the founding community of St. Joseph's Convent in the Hoylestown area of St. John's. She taught music in St. Joseph's School, providing a comprehensive music program for the students as well as taking responsibility for parish liturgies. Between 1937 and 1949 Sister M. Benedicta held the office of local superior both at Mercy Convent and at St. Clare's Convent. While at St. Clare's she and her community, with the help of generous benefactors, created a fund called *St. Joseph's Burse* which allowed St. Clare's to provide free accommodation and care

to needy pregnant mothers and their babies in the absence of government remuneration. This fund continued until the advent of National Health Insurance in 1958.

In 1949 Sister M. Benedicta returned to Mercy Convent where she resumed her teaching of music until failing health necessitated retirement from active ministry. She died on July 15, 1959 at the age of 90 years and is buried in Belvedere cemetery.



In the spotlight....



From left to right: Mark Critch (plays Mike Critch), Malcolm McDowell (plays Patrick – the grandfather), Sister Rosemary Ryan, and Benjamin Evan Ainsworth (plays Mark Critch). Sister Rosemary was principal at St. Theresa’s school where Mark was a student. He insisted on taking her picture with the main characters from “Son of a Critch”.

Poetry Pause

‘September’.

Lo! a ripe sheaf of many golden days
Gleaned by the year in autumn’s harvest ways,
With here and there, blood-tinted as an ember,
Some crimson poppy of a late delight
Atoning in its splendor for the flight
Of summer blooms and joys
This is September.

~Lucy Maud Montgomery~



Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942) is best-known for her classic novel for children, *Anne of Green Gables*, set in Montgomery’s own country of Canada (on Prince Edward Island). She published 20 novels as well as 530 short stories, 500 poems, and 30 essays.





From Kitty's Kitchen

Broccoli Cheddar Soup

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups whole milk or unsweetened almond milk
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- 3 cups chopped broccoli florets
- 1 large carrot, julienned or finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 8 ounces shredded cheddar cheese, about 2 heaping cups



Directions

1. Melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add the onion, salt, and several grinds of pepper and cook, stirring, for 5 minutes, or until softened. Stir in the garlic and cook for another minute, then sprinkle in the flour and whisk continuously for 1 to 2 minutes, or until the flour turns golden. Slowly pour in the milk, whisking continuously.
2. Add the broth, broccoli, carrot, and mustard and stir to combine. Simmer for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the broccoli is tender.
3. Gradually add the cheese, stirring after each addition, until all the cheese is melted and the soup is creamy. Season to taste and serve with croutons, if desired.



From Kitty's Library

A Good Read: *A Secret Close to Home* by Ida Linehan Young

Jimmy Bailor is left on the edge of the wild North Atlantic with meagre supplies and limited survival skills. He stumbles upon shelter with Flory White, her sister-in-law, Lizzy, and Lizzy's young son.

The Whites have been stranded to winter alone in isolated Juniper Tickle after the menfolk are arrested for the murder of the crew of the *Annie May*—a marooned schooner owned by Jimmy's father.

While enduring the harsh and unforgiving winter in outport Newfoundland, Jimmy struggles with menial tasks and further strains Flory's bid to keep them alive until spring, with faint hope for the men's return.

When Jimmy's identity is revealed, he must face the bitter truth about himself, his father's legacy, the women he has now betrayed—and a murderer who will stop at nothing to make sure Jimmy disappears once and for all.

Will Jimmy challenge his limitations and defy a killer? Will he humbly seek Flory's forgiveness, or is it too late for them both as Flory deals with deceptions closer to home?



Pause for Thought ...

pause

S...l...o...w... it all down. Pause from your full calendar and long task list. Take a moment— or ten— to simply be. To remind yourself that this is life, right here and right now. To reacquaint yourself with your pulsing heart and your incredible body that allows you to do all that you do. To remember that life is precious and fragile and should be lived in love. To remind yourself that whatever is happening or wherever you find yourself in your journey, it is all as it is supposed to be.

- Nikki Banas | *Walk the Earth*

The Last Word...

“I would like to tell you all the little cheering things that God permits to fall in our way.”

Letter to de Pazzi Delaney October 3, 1837