

Sandy Point Foundation – July 1893

In July of 1893 four women from the Sisters of Mercy of Rhode Island – Sisters Antonio Egan, Corsini Dempsey, Veronica Payne and Sylvester Carver - along with Mrs. Henrietta Brownell, a friend and benefactor of the sisters, boarded ship in Boston to set sail for the mission territory of Western Newfoundland. The pioneer band arrived in the tiny fishing port of Sandy Point on July 28 to a rousing welcome from the people. The sisters spent the first month meeting the people, visiting the sick and elderly and preparing for school opening in September. Despite the harsh realities

of mission life in a poor country, the Sandy Point foundation thrived, and from the very beginning, these talented and courageous women worked tirelessly to develop the educational, spiritual and social capacity of the children and of the community at large.



Opening prayer:



God of Mercy, loving companion on our journey, we thank you for the women of Mercy who have gone before us. They were indeed your missionary disciples, pilgrims of hope in the darkness of poverty and struggle. Make us beacons of hope in our world, fractured by violence and division ... bearers of love and mercy in all our interactions with our sisters and brothers, with Mother Earth and with all your creation. Amen

Readings:

- *God's mercies never come to an end; they are renewed every morning.*
Lam.3:23
- *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
- *Mercying is a huge, Gospel-size calling to which we weak human beings can respond only bit by bit. We know that our becoming, individually and all together, human persons who really love all humanity as Christ loves us is God's continuing creative work in which we are asked to collaborate as fully as we can. But as Catherine McAuley often told us: "If we are humble and sincere, God will finish in us the work God has begun. God never refuses God's grace to those who ask it."*
Mary Sullivan, rsm

Prayer: (St. Brendan's prayer -adapted)

God of the Journey,
Help me to journey beyond the familiar and the unknown.
Give me faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with you

Christ of the mysteries, I trust You to be stronger
than each storm within me.
I will trust the darkness and know that my times are in your hands.

Tune my spirit to the music of heaven and help me
to believe that you are guiding me
and accompanying me wherever I go.
Amen

Blessing: (Mary Wickham -adapted)

Go from this place with joy; go forward with hope
Go forward from this place with feet that itch
to continue the dance and to walk the roads of Mercy.

Go forward with arms held wide open to what
God sends to us for merciful embrace

Go forth from this place with enthusiastic faith
in God and in one another ...

Go forward from this place, nurtured by the faith, courage
and faithfulness of those who have gone before us in Mercy.

May the Trinity of Love, Creator, Word and Wisdom
bless each one of us on our way.

