



Vol. 8/No. 10 – October 2025

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 caregivers. May God touch them with comfort, healing and strength.

We pray for people who are on our list this week – Jaxon McKinney (grandnephew of Sister Maureen O'Keefe), 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, George Bradbury (husband of Barbara Bradbury), Jim Wakeford (nephew of Sister Maureen O'Keefe), Mike Kelly (husband of Anna Kelly), Anne Walsh and Sister Maureen O'Keefe.

(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.



Michelle Furlong	-	October 2 nd
Catherine Penney Ryan	-	October 16 th

From the Wisdom Circles

Circle of Compassion

*"We should strive to keep our hearts open
to the sufferings and wretchedness of
other people, and pray continually that
God may grant us that spirit of compassion
which is truly the spirit of God."*

- St. Vincent de Paul

Contemplative Presence

"God comes to us disguised as our lives."

- Paula D'Arcy

*Contemplative engagement comes in many forms with many faces.
Whether we are alone or with other, walking, sitting, being quiet, or
noisy, reading, reflecting, meeting, marching for justice or having
dinner with a friend we can be practicing contemplative engagement if
we do just three things:
Pay attention - Be present - Welcome What Comes*

Integrity of all Creation

A Prayer for Thanksgiving for Creation

*Dear Lord, I thank You for the beauty of the earth, the skies, the
seas, and all living things that display Your glory. Each sunrise and
sunset reminds me of Your faithfulness. Thank You for the air I
breathe, the water I drink, and the nature that sustains me. May I
always treat creation with care and reverence as a gift entrusted to me
by You. Amen.*

- PrayerVest

Diversity and Inclusion



*We inhabit a universe that is
characterized by
Diversity.*

- Desmond Tutu

Notes from the Associates/Sisters

ITEMS OF INTEREST



Mercy Wellsprings

We need constantly to contemplate the
mystery of mercy.

It is a wellspring of joy,

Serenity, and peace ...
From the heart of
the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery
of God, the great river of mercy wells up
and overflows unceasingly. It is
a spring that will never run dry,
no matter how many people draw from it.

Misericordiae vultus #2, #25



The Feast Day for Saint Simon and Saint Jude, the Apostles, is October 28th.

Saint Simon:

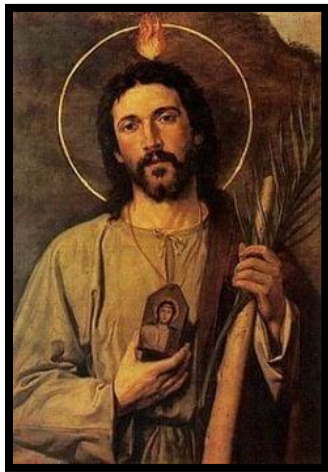
Almost nothing is known about Simon in the Bible. He is mentioned three times in the Gospels, but only once to list his name alongside the other twelve disciples. According to Acts 1:13, he was present in the upper room of Jerusalem with the 11 apostles after Christ ascended to heaven. According to church tradition, he served as a missionary in Egypt and was martyred in Persia.



Saint Simon the Zealot matured into an apostle during his three years of ministry with Jesus, able to spread the gospel in truth and love to all nations. Although there are various versions of his death, it is likely that he served as a missionary in Persia with zeal and eventually died as a martyr.

Saint Jude:

Saint Jude, known as Thaddaeus, was a brother of Saint James the Less, and a relative of Our Saviour. He was one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus and his attribute is a club. Images of Saint Jude often include a flame around his head, which represent his presence at Pentecost, when he accepted the Holy Spirit alongside the other apostles. Another attribute is Saint Jude holding an image of Christ, in the Image of Edessa.



Biblical scholars agree Saint Jude was a son of Clopas and his mother Mary was the Virgin Mary's cousin. Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Lybia. He returned to Jerusalem in the year 62, and assisted at the election of his brother, Saint Simeon, as Bishop of Jerusalem.

Catholics invoke Saint Jude when in desperate situations because his New Testament letter stresses that the faithful should persevere in the environment of harsh, difficult circumstances -just as their forefathers had done before them; therefore, he is the patron saint of desperate cases.





The Archival Moment

The Archival Moment is contributed by Sister Charlotte Fitzpatrick.

An Archival Moment – Sister Mary Gonzaga Coady

Esther Mary Joseph Coady, daughter of Mary and John Coady was born in St. John's in 1835. Our records do not have any information about her before she entered religious life and very little after. She entered the Sisters of Mercy on August 15, 1858 and at her reception into the novitiate she received the name Sister Mary Gonzaga. She was professed in January of 1861 and in September of that same year, she was named as a member of the founding community of St. Joseph's Convent, Brigus.

The Catholic population of Brigus had prepared well for the coming of the sisters. They had collected nearly 900 pounds for the construction of the convent. On their arrival at the wharf in Brigus on that September day, the sisters were given a warm and enthusiastic welcome with loud cheering and cannon shots. The excited crowd then led the sisters in procession to their new home.

There had been a Catholic school in Brigus since 1805, operating first out of the home of the teacher, Mr. Robin Power and then in the sacristy of the church. For the first few years after their arrival the sisters taught both boys and girls, but in 1870 a male teacher took over education of the boys. The sisters' school soon gained a reputation for its high academic record as well as for its excellence in music and drama. The sisters in Brigus also offered a training program for prospective teachers, as noted in the report of the Superintendent of Education in 1902:

“The convent supplies nearly all the teachers employed by the Brigus Board and the excellent training these have received is very evident in the way they conduct their schools.”

Sister M. Gonzaga lived and taught in Brigus for her entire religious life. She died on January 18, 1913 and is buried in the sisters' cemetery in Brigus.



From Kitty's Kitchen **Carrot and Apple Muffins**

Preheat oven to 325°

Dry ingredients:

1 ½ Cups of flour

½ Cup Coconut

½ Cup Sugar

1 Tsp Baking Powder

½ Tsp Baking Soda

1 Table Cinnamon

- Combine dry ingredients in a bowl.

1 ½ Cup of Carrots - grated

1 Large Apple - grated

- Add grated carrot and apple to dry ingredients and mix together

Wet Ingredients:

2 eggs

1 ½ cup of oil



1/2 Cup of Orange Juice

- Beat eggs and add Oil and Orange Juice
- Mix wet to dry mixture together...combine well and place in muffins tins

Bake for 25 minutes....test with a toothpick as baking time may vary.



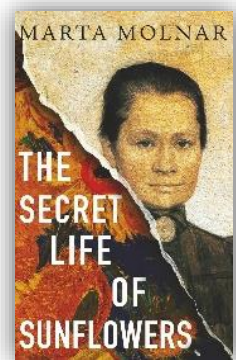
From Kitty's Library

A Good Read...

The Secret Life of Sunflowers by: Marta Molnar

When Hollywood auctioneer Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone, the pages are full of surprises. The first surprise is, the diary isn't her grandmother's. It belongs to Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law.

Johanna inherited Vincent van Gogh's paintings. They were all she had, and they weren't worth anything. She was a 28 year old widow with a baby in the 1800s, without any means of supporting herself, living in Paris where she barely spoke the language. Yet she managed to introduce Vincent's legacy to the world.



The inspiration couldn't come at a better time for Emsley. With her business failing, an unexpected love turning up in her life, and family secrets unraveling, can she find answers in the past?

****based on the true story of Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law****



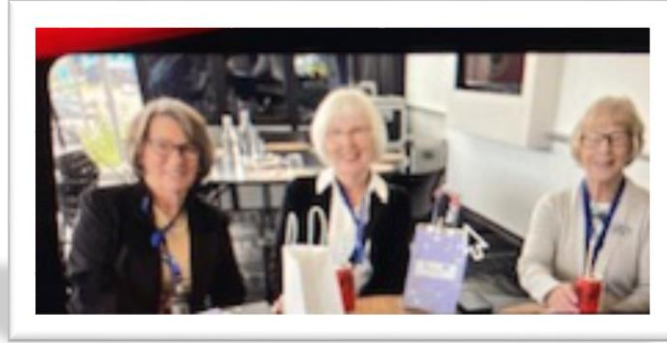
We strongly encourage you to go to our mercy website:
www.sistersofmercynf.org and have a look at the ASSOCIATE section.
There are many new additions, lots of photos and some videos.

We hope that you will enjoy and be encouraged to keep working for the growth of our Mercy Associate relationship.



This past week St. John's hosted a four day conference for Vocations Canada. The theme was "Hope is Our North Star – Shine Your Light!"

Mercy Associates Sharon Drover, Catherine Ryan, Joan Cummins, Catherine Foster and Barbara Hawley attended the conference. Vocations Canada gathered people from all over North America; various religious orders; Associates and lay people who work with religious orders were in attendance.



Left to right: Sharon Drover, Catherine Foster & Joan Cummins

During the conference Catherine Ryan got to know Sister Giang Pham. She is a young sister with the order Our Lady of the Missions in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Giang is a very talented artist, and with Giang's permission, we wanted to share a piece of her artwork that will welcome our season of Autumn.

Giang was born in Vietnam and when she followed her call to religious life she found her way to Canada.



I love maple leaves.
In a colorful romantic autumn,

Everything is Yellow and Red,
Legendary colors of my dreams.

I had heard long ago
About the gorgeous color of maple leaves,
And that they lived
Far away in a land of legend
In the land of Maple trees.

Maple leaves are now painted on my paper;
In red, yellow and orange watercolor,
Before I saw them in reality,
Maple leaves were already painted in my heart

And now, in my hands, I am holding one ...
Gently, I pick up other fallen Maple leaves,
A bouquet of Maple leaves,
Under the brilliant autumn sky ...

I had not dared to dream
One day to see
THE MAPLE LEAF...

Suddenly, I feel confused
“Am I awaking or dreaming?”

It is all so very beautiful!

(Sister Giang Pham RNDM)



Pause for Thought ...

“Time is a constant force, like two poles connected by an elastic string. Taking a pause in life is like stretching that string, gathering energy to propel us forward with greater force and speed.”

– Supratim Das



the LAST WORD

*“My God, I am yours for time and eternity.
Teach me to cast myself entirely
into the arms of your loving Providence
with a lively, unlimited confidence in your compassionate, tender pity.
Grant, O most merciful Redeemer,
That whatever you ordain or permit may be acceptable to me.
Take from my heart all painful anxiety;
let nothing sadden me but sin,
nothing delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of You
my God and my all, in your everlasting kingdom.*

Amen.”

- Catherine McAuley



Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You for my family. Protect us, guide us, and keep us in Your love. May we remain grateful for each other and live in harmony through Christ. Amen.