

We Shall Keep the Faith

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet – to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead,
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought,
In Flanders Fields.

Moina Michael, 1918



Catherine McAuley's Death November 11, 1841 and Remembrance Day

The month of November is a time to pause; nature begins a season of rest; the days are shorter, and light is noticeably limited. The leaves are changing colors and fall to the ground reminding us of what the spring and summer had offered has now come to an end.

As we remember the anniversary of Catherine McAuley's death on November 11, 1841, much has been written over the years of her final moments; her words to her sisters and her wishes for others who would be arriving from a long distance. On September 21, 1841, Catherine was told by her physician that her right lung was diseased with tuberculosis. At the end of October Catherine was bedridden and on November 8th she was anointed. Catherine died on November 11th.



Catherine's sisters would surely be the same as any of us who was present with a loved one at a time of sickness. They kept her comfortable; took turns sitting with her; poured her a cup of tea; prayed with her, read to her; shared memories of their time together; listened to the last instruction they would receive from her.

What were her sisters experiencing those last few months and weeks of Catherine's life. Reflect on some of the questions they must have been pondering:

- ✓ What would they do without their foundress?
- ✓ Should they just stay in Ireland and support one another in their time of grief?
- ✓ Who would give them directions on what path the Order should take?

Closing Prayer

May the God of Mercy continue to lead us and inspire us. **Amen**
May the presence of Catherine be a light and a joy for the road. **Amen**
May the compassion of Jesus be our guide and our measure. **Amen**
In the name of the Trinity of Love: Creator, Word and Spirit.
Now and always. **Amen**

Hymn: Circle of Mercy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YEvRs0DqW4>

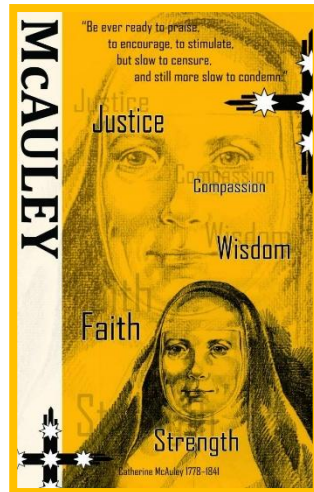
Catherine McAuley's successor, Sister Mary de Pazzi, honored her commitments. Three sisters, Francis Creedon, Ursula Frayne and Rose Lynch, sailed for St. John's, Newfoundland and arrived on June 3, 1842, to establish the first Mercy foundation outside England and Ireland. Her peaceful passing and final instructions to her sisters illustrate her unwavering faith and charitable spirit.

"My legacy to the Institute is charity:

*If you preserve peace and union ...
you will feel, even in this world,
happiness that will surprise you".*

Unlike traditional religious orders bound by cloister, the Sisters of Mercy were free to leave the convent to serve those in need. This active, street-level ministry earned them the nickname "***the walking nuns***".

Today, the legacy of Catherine McAuley is carried on by thousands of across the globe, united by her vision of compassion and service...***walking together toward Mercy.***



Pause for Reflection:

How have we, as Sisters of Mercy, carried Catherine's legacy forward?
How have I, as a Sister of Mercy, walked together toward Mercy?"

Intersessions:

For those who have served their country during war time.

We pray for those women and men who have given their lives, for those who bear the scars of war, and for the veterans and their families who need support.
In your Mercy.... ***hear our prayer.***

For Mercy and Compassion.

We pray that we may be channels of mercy through simple acts like listening, a kind gaze and speaking kindly. We pray for a compassionate spirit and a fervent desire to serve suffering people, echoing Catherine's call to assist those in need promptly.

In your Mercy.... ***hear our prayer.***

For leaders and peacemakers.

We pray for all those who work for peace and courage and for those who strive for justice for all. Catherine McAuley was not afraid to challenge injustice for the poor or speak for those who did not have a voice.
In your Mercy.... ***hear our prayer.***

For Catherine McAuley's beatification.

God of Love and Mercy, You inspired Catherine McAuley to be aware of the needs of her time. Moved by her care for the sick and homeless, we ask that through her prayers, you grant healing to those who put their faith in you.
In your Mercy.... ***hear our prayer***

For those affected by war and violence.

We pray for an end to violence, and for justice to overcome the causes of conflict. For those who are homeless or living in fear, and for the healing of individuals and communities.

In your Mercy.... ***hear our prayer***

Creator God may the Gospel message of peace burn ever more brightly in our hearts, our words and our actions, and lead all to fullness of life in You. We make this prayer to you through Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***