

MERCY WELLSPRINGS

FORMATION MOMENT



Mercy
Wellsprings

Fuentes de la
Misericordia

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Self - Reflection:

When listening to Catherine's account of the founding years of the Sisters of Mercy, what resonates with you?

For more Formation Information please visit:

[Formation page](#)

[Formation Moments page](#)

Early Expansion: Catherine McAuley & Sisters of Mercy

News of the work that **Catherine McAuley** and her Sisters of Mercy were doing spread rapidly. Consequently, Catherine received many calls for assistance. She responded to these calls in her typical generous nature.

Catherine McAuley was a prolific writer and kept in touch with her ever-growing network of Sisters of Mercy through letters. We are very fortunate as a great number of these letters have survived, allowing us to learn much about Catherine and the early Sisters of Mercy. We are indebted to Mercy historian, Mary C. Sullivan RSM, for her research and scholarship in making these letters accessible to the Mercy family.



An Early Letter from Catherine McAuley

Catherine's letter to Sister Elizabeth Moore, written on 13 January 1839, is significant because it contains Catherine's reflections on the first eight years of the new Institute.

Listen to the extract from this letter on **Track 2 (5 min 20 sec)** at the following link: <https://www.mercyworld.org/library/your-ever-affectionate-catherine-mcauley179>

NOTE: The page numbers referred to on the web page above correspond to those in the book **The Correspondence of Catherine McAuley 1818-1841** by Mary C. Sullivan.

Meeting Mercy - May you meet mercy each day: in the light of your own heart, at the hands of your loved ones, in the eyes of the stranger and the needy. And if by chance you do not at first meet it, then search your heart for it, listen patiently for word of it, and it will tap you on the shoulder, a quiet surprise, a small gesture, the tender look, given and received in the encounters of your day.

Mary Wickham RSM, *Souvenirs of Spirit: Poems and Prayers*, p.37