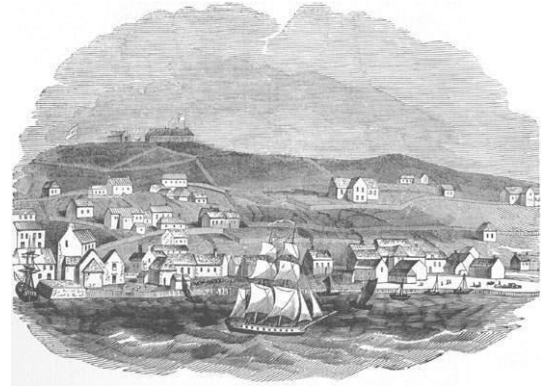


Arrival of first Sisters of Mercy in Newfoundland

Welcome to the Circle of Prayer:

Let us go in imagination to the dock in St. John's harbor on June 3, 1842. Hear the harbor noises ... see the crowd gathered in welcome... watch as three veiled women – Francis, Ursula and Rose – are helped from the pilot boat to shore ... sense their fatigue, their relief and their amazement as they look around the dockside. What must have been going on in them as they got their first look at their new home in this new land? What is going on in you as you picture this scene?



Prayer:

God of Mercy, Loving Companion on our journey,
in every age, You invite us to move into the unknown, trusting that You will guide us
and sustain us on our journey.

We give thanks today for the courageous and hope-filled witness of our Mercy pioneers in Newfoundland. They shed Mercy's light on this land and brought comfort and hope to your people. Call us in our turn to be the bearers of good news to all in need of your Mercy. Inspire us today, not to do what they did, but to find ways to be Mercy in our time and place. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Way, our Truth and our Life. Amen.

Readings:

- *I heard the voice of God saying: "Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger? I answered: Here I am, send me."* Isaiah 6:8
- *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
- *The roads of Mercy are long and deep, wondrous wise and never-ending. They are avenues of goodness; they are pot-holed with need and lined with compassion. The roads of Mercy are the walkways of humanity, ancient and always new.*
Mary Wickham, rsm

How do these readings speak to you of the life and ministry of our founding sisters? What do they say to your life and ministry in Mercy today?

Song: St. Teresa's Prayer (John Michael Talbot)

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=st.+teresa%27s+prayer+by+john+michael+talbot+youtube+video+download+free&qs=GS&pq=st.+teresa%27s+prayer+by+john+mic>

Closing Prayer:

God of Mercy, God of the journey,
as we remember and celebrate our beginnings in this land,
we thank you again for the life and ministry of Francis Creedon
and of all who faithfully followed in her footsteps over the past
one hundred and eighty-four years.

Your steadfast love has indeed covered us in Mercy,
generation after generation.
May we continue to cherish and to share the gift of Mercy
You have entrusted to us.
We ask all of this in the Name of Jesus, Your Mercy made flesh. Amen.

Blessing:

May God our Creator enfold us, surround us, embrace us ...	AMEN
May Jesus be in our thinking, our seeing, our relating ...	AMEN
May the Spirit be in our hoping, our daring, our acting ...	AMEN
May Francis' vision and her steadfast trust in God's providence inspire and strengthen us in our dreaming and our doing...	AMEN

