

# MERCY WELLSPRINGS

## FORMATION MOMENT



Mercy  
Wellsprings

Fuentes de la  
Misericordia

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### **Self - Reflection:**

Think about how the Sisters responded with creativity and eagerness to the needs of their day. As you look around you, what needs cry out to you? **For more Formation Information please visit:**

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### **A word from Catherine...**

“The poor need help today, not next week.”

## **Expansion: The Sisters of Mercy Arrive on Newfoundland Shores**

In early 1840 a meeting between Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy and Bishop Michael Anthony Fleming, Vicar Apostolic of Newfoundland took place in the Convent of Mercy, Baggot Street, Dublin. Bishop Fleming had already set his sights on a possible Mercy foundation in Newfoundland. He had sent Marianne Creedon to Ireland in 1839 to be trained by Catherine McAuley. She was a wise choice, as Marianne had lived in St. John's for six years, knew the critical needs of the area and had a strong desire to help the people of her adopted homeland.

Catherine McAuley wanted to come to Newfoundland herself, but she became sick and died in 1841. It was June 3, 1842, that Marianne Creedon, now Sr. M. Francis, and two companions, Sisters M. Ursula Frayne and M. Rose Lynch arrived in Newfoundland. Their first year was spent in visitation and care of the sick and those suffering from poverty and wretched living conditions, and this ministry continued even when the sisters opened a school on May 1, 1843.

From Mercy Convent on Military Road in St. John's, the Sisters of Mercy spread throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, and even to Peru. Responding creatively to the needs of the people they encountered, the sisters were involved in education, health care, social ministry, advocacy on behalf of our Common Home, and many other outreach initiatives.

### **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...**

While Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy, neither she nor the Sisters of Mercy have a monopoly on mercy. At the heart of the mercy that Catherine and the Sisters of Mercy live and practise is God's mercy.

The theme of mercy is expressed throughout the Christian Scriptures. In the gospels. *“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”* (Lk 6:20-49). In his Gospel, Luke highlights ‘mercy’ as an attribute of God and invites us to be ‘merciful’ in the same ways as God is merciful.

**Think of someone you know to be a merciful person. In what ways does that person reflect God's mercy?**