

# REFLECTION

## What Is It To Be Mercy?

### History

Founded by a daring and courageous woman, Catherine McAuley, in Dublin in 1831, the Sisters of Mercy have always shown great compassion for those who suffer, are poor or vulnerable. The Sisters have a heritage of breaking new ground, particularly when addressing the injustices seen in society.



### Mission

- We strive to follow Christ's example and focus our organizational commitment to serve ...
- To follow Jesus Christ is to work for *gospel justice* and to stand in *solidarity* with all of humankind: this is to work to ensure that all people share in the goods of the earth in a way that recognizes the equal dignity of all people.

### Vision

- To build an enduring capacity and passion to serve those with special needs. In the service to the poor of Dublin, Catherine taught young people life skills that would build a sustainable capacity to serve them well for the rest of their life.
- It is a vision that urges us to be alert to the needs of our time, to serve with passion, to ensure sustainability, to focus on special needs and stretch ourselves to do more.

### Values

- Our values are drawn from the Gospel and are the key to who we are. They reflect our culture and traditions; they indicate our aspirations as to how our people interact with one another and with those we serve ...

- **Compassion**      • **Respect**                      • **Innovation**                      • **Stewardship**                      • **Teamwork**

## The Mercy Tradition



If we are to honor our history, implement our vision and live out our mission, we must echo the tenderness of Christ Jesus, the courage of Catherine McAuley and the dreams of those who have gone before us.

We must gather the young, welcome the stranger and teach as Jesus did. We must create hallways of compassion, lessons of justice and gifts that impel.

If we are to trust the call put before us, we must create an institution whose soul is Mercy.

*All: God, we are part of a long tradition of Mercy, which has its roots in the heart of the Trinity and has found many and varied expressions in human history.*

*Bless us as we seek ways to be faithful to that tradition in the times and places where we find ourselves. Continue to plant our seeds of Mercy in our lives and world, water them with the rain of compassion so that we might enjoy a harvest of justice and peace.*

*Amen*

