

Anniversary of Arrival of Sisters of Mercy in St. John's

Introduction:



June 3, 1842 marks the beginning of a wonderful story – a story of deep faith, abiding trust, courageous action and steadfast commitment.

On that day, three young Irish women arrived in St. John's to establish a mission that would overcome almost insurmountable difficulties to root Mercy in harsh Newfoundland soil. We thank God for these women of Mercy as we continue to journey in their footsteps ...

Opening prayer:

Bountiful and merciful God, we come in awe and thanksgiving as we contemplate the wonders You have done and continue to do in and through your people. We thank You for these women of Mercy who dared to respond to the call to Mercy in this place 182 years ago. Help us to recognize your calls to us and give us the trust and the courage to respond with generous spirits and full hearts. We ask this in faith. Amen

Readings:

- *Give and it will be given to you – a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.* (Luke 6:38)
 - *While we place all our confidence in God, we must always act as if success depended on our own exertions.* (Catherine McAuley)
 - *The roads of Mercy are long and deep ... 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 ever new.* (Mary Wickham)
- What does today's commemoration call forth in you as you respond to the call of our 22nd General Chapter to "dare to walk together into the future"?
 - What are the blessings that you meet on the "roads of Mercy"? What are the obstacles? What do you need as you continue the journey?

Closing Affirmation: (John Schweibert)



We proclaim that the fire of those who have gone before us has never left this earth. We are heartened by the truth that their sacred fire has become an eternal light that leads us on, encouraging us, affirming us to live our lives to the fullest, for our own benefit and for the good of all.

Mercy Blessing: (adapted from Mary Wickham)

Go forth from this time of prayer with joy;
go forth with hope.
Go forth with feet that itch to continue the dance
and to walk the roads of Mercy.
Go forth with arms held wide,
open to what God sends to us for merciful embrace.

Go forth with fire in your heart,
filled with energy for God's mission,
Go forth with enthusiastic faith in God,
in one another and in our shared future.

May God, the Trinity of Love,
Creator, Word and Wisdom,
bless each one of us and all of us together
as we celebrate this special anniversary.

Song: Holy Fire (Kathy Sherman)

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