

## **Antonio Egan Foundation – Sandy Point**

***“Everything Is Waiting for you.” (David Whyte)***

***Lead me, Guide me / Monica Brown:***

***[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZasFKB6ZTQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZasFKB6ZTQ)***

*The Evening Telegram* of August 12, 1893, records with great detail and colour the arrival of the first Sisters of Mercy to Newfoundland’s west coast. At Sandy Point the missionaries received an enthusiastic welcome, replete with evergreen arches, wreaths, flags, processions, and salvos of gunfire. The people themselves ..... displayed the most unbounded enthusiasm and interest in the arrival of the nuns and flocked around them in their own simple ways as the harbingers of great future blessings to this place. The paper further stated that the nuns would take charge of the public school immediately after the summer vacation, and that there were plans to open a branch for higher education in the near future.



Sister Mary Antonio Egan, the founder of the first Convent of Mercy on Newfoundland’s west coast, would have undoubtedly nodded in agreement at poet David Whyte’s wise comment on life. The call of the mission in the late nineteenth century took her from the comfortable academic and cultural milieu of convent life and ministry in Providence, Rhode Island, to a foreign, harsh environment with very rudimentary educational and social structures. It was in this environment of hardship and struggle in Bay St. George, Newfoundland, that Sister Mary Antonio and her companions gave birth to a dream that would change their lives and the lives of all who were

touched by their ministry of Mercy.

Sister Mary Antonio’s incredible journey certainly could never be contained or sustained in any plan she would have devised for herself. The Lucan imperative **“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)** can perhaps portray something of what made that journey so significant, so relevant, so empowering for us, who are privileged to share in her amazing Mercy odyssey. (*Woman of Providence, pages 1, 19*)

### **Reflection:**

***As I look back over my years of life and ministry in Mercy, what am I grateful for?***

## ***Thirst*** by Mary Oliver

*Original Language English*

Another morning and I wake with thirst for the goodness I do not have.  
I walk out to the pond and all the way God has given us such beautiful lessons.  
Oh Lord, I was never a quick scholar but sulked and hunched over my books past the  
hour and the bell; grant me, in your mercy, a little more time.  
Love for the earth and love for you are having such a long conversation in my heart.  
Who knows what will finally happen or where I will be sent, yet already I have  
given a great many things away, expecting to be told to pack nothing, except the  
prayers which, with this thirst, I am slowly learning.

**As I read the poem “Thirst” by Mary Oliver how has my life been enriched by the lives of those to whom I have ministered?**

Play: **The Suscipe:**

<https://www.mercyworld.org/library/the-suscipe-of-catherine-mcauley/>

