



**Vol. 7/No. 1 January 2024**

**Kitty's Chronicle**

**Mercy Associates Newsletter**



## **PRAYERS**

### ***Year of Prayer – 2024***

After the year devoted to reflecting on the documents and studying the fruits of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis has proposed that 2024 should be marked as a year dedicated to prayer.

### ***Prayers for the Sick***

Let us pray for the sick, especially our Associates, Sisters of Mercy, family members, friends and care-givers. May God touch them with comfort, healing and strength.

We pray for people who are on our list this week – Jaxon McKinney (Sister Maureen O’Keefe’s grandnephew), Diane Hickey (sister-in-law of Cathy Hickey), Theresa Lacey (sister of Annie Brown), Marilyn Thurston, Patricia King, Edith Antle, Sylvia Flood, Kevin Drover (husband of Geraldine Drover), Marion Bonia (sister of Anne Marie Davis), Gabrielle Knight and Baxter Taylor (husband of Mary Taylor).

(If you wish to have your name or another person’s name added to or removed from this list please let Sharon Drover know. ([drover.sharon@yahoo.ca](mailto:drover.sharon@yahoo.ca))



### **Prayer for the Sick**

#### **Through the Intercession of Catherine McAuley**

**God of Love and Mercy,  
You inspired Catherine McAuley,  
To serve your Son by responding  
To the needs of her time.  
Moved by her care for the Sick,  
We ask that through Her Prayers  
You reach out with Your Healing Love  
And restore them to full health  
We ask this in complete  
Confidence through Jesus Christ, Your Son  
Amen.  
Catherine McAuley, Pray For Us  
Amen.**





## ***Light a Candle***

Let us continue, in solidarity with Mercy Sisters, Associates and Colleagues around the world, to light a candle and pray for justice and peace.



## **From the Wisdom Circles**

### ***Circle of Compassion***

*“Let our Hearts be  
stretched out in  
compassion  
toward others,  
for everyone is  
walking his or her  
own difficult  
path.”*

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

## **Contemplative Presence**

*“God is always present  
Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee  
from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol,  
you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning and  
settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand  
shall hold me fast.”*

Psalm 139:7-10

## **Integrity of Creation**

*“Take good care of creation. St. Francis wanted that.  
People occasionally forgive, but nature never does. If we*

*don't take care of the environment, there's no way of getting around it."*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pope Francis

## ***Diversity and Inclusion***

*"Inclusion is not bringing people into what already exists; it is making a new space, a better space for everyone ."*

\_\_\_\_\_  
George Dei



## **Notes from the Associates/Sisters**

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST**



January's name comes from the Roman god Janus, the god of beginnings and endings. According to historians, January is believed to have been named after Jupiter, the king of the Roman gods. The ancient Romans celebrated the beginning of each new year on January 1st, the same day as the modern western world.

## ***January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God***

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/liturgical-holidays/solemnity-of-mary--the-holy-mother-of-god.html>

### ***Epiphany Blessing***

Sunday, January 7, 2024, is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, one of the oldest of all Christian feasts. It is also known as Three Kings' Day. It commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child.

Marking our doorways or front porch steps with blessed chalk is a centuries-old Epiphany custom and a visible way to dedicate our homes and the New Year to God. The inscription this year is:

**20 + C + M + B + 24**

“20” and “24” stand for the new year (2024). The plus signs represent the Cross. CMB are the first initials of the traditional names given to the Magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin *Christus mansionem benedicat*, or “May Christ bless the house.”

To mark your home, you will need two things: Chalk that has been blessed by a priest and a prayer. As you prepare to mark the front door or porch, say the following:

*The Three Wise Men, Casper, Melchior and Balthasar, followed the star of God's Son who became human 2,022 years ago. May Christ bless our home and be with us throughout the New Year. Amen.*

Then, as you make the marks, offer the following prayer:

*Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of Your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of Your love. Grant that we may manifest Your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of You. Guide, comfort and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.*



## ***Women in Canadian History***

- January 3, 1827  
Letitia Creighton (Youmans) was born in a log cabin in Hamilton Township, Upper Canada. Raised in the Methodist Church, she became a school teacher and married widower Arthur Youmans. Her concerns about the evils of alcohol led to her involvement in the temperance movement, and Letitia Youmans became a prominent speaker and campaigner. She was the first president of the Dominion Women's Christian Temperance Union.



- January 19, 1989  
Heather Erxleben became the first female combat soldier in Canada, after completing her training at the Canadian Forces Base in Wainwright, Alberta.
- January 22, 1992



Roberta Bondar, Canada's first female astronaut, blasted into space on the US space shuttle *Discovery*. [More](#) from our Biographies section.

- January 23, 1789  
Author Frances Brooke died in England. While living in Quebec with her husband, a military chaplain, Frances Brooke wrote *The History of Emily Montague*. The book is recognized as the first Canadian novel and Frances is said to be the first novelist in North America.



***Frances Brooke***  
***(Library and Archives  
Canada/Acc. No. 1981-88-1)***

- January 24, 1927  
Phyllis Lambert was born in Montreal, the daughter of industrialist Samuel Bronfman. A graduate of Vassar College, she became a renowned architect who founded the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal.
- January 28, 1914  
In a campaign to secure the right to vote for women in Manitoba, suffragist Nellie McClung and the Political Equality League organized a mock "Women's Parliament" in the Walker Theatre in Winnipeg. Nellie and her team wanted to get the people of the province laughing at the absurdity of denying the vote to women. Nellie was a hit in her role as Premier Roblin. The play was a great success, as reported in *The Winnipeg Telegram* the following day:

### WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS GAMBOL AT WALKER THEATRE

Judging from the aggregation of femininity at the Walker Theatre last night, Winnipeg homes must have been masculine manned for once in their existence during the evening. The big theatre was packed to the roof with all ages and types of "the female of the species," undoubtedly as a demonstration of sympathy with the women who sought in vain the other day for the extension of the franchise to women in Manitoba.

From the standpoint of an entertainment, it was excellent and few burlesques or light comedy productions have ever met with a heartier response than last night's burlesque on the system of government as it exists today. The performers may have been amateurs, but they were only amateur in name. As a matter of fact they were the real thing so far as woman suffrage is concerned so they were naturally quite at home in their roles, even if they were a wee bit nervous at first. But the spirit of the thing seemed to catch them all and consequently the performance was an entire success, from both the point of view of artists and the audience. The women who portrayed the characters of politicians both in and out of office appeared to take quite naturally to their parts; in fact, it might be said that they actually revelled in the pretence of holding office and that secret ambition they all shared is undoubtedly

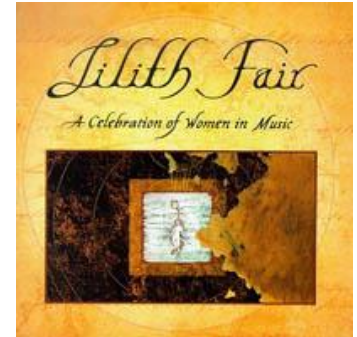


Nellie McClung  
(Cyril Jessop/Library and Archives Canada/PA-030212)



accountable for the great success of the entire program.  
(*The Winnipeg Telegram*. January 29th, 1914)

- January 28, 1916  
Manitoba granted the vote to women, becoming the first province in Canada to do so.
- January 28, 1968  
Sarah McLachlan was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. After studying at the Nova Scotia Conservatory of Music, she became a famous singer and songwriter. In 1996 Sarah founded an all-female music festival called Lilith Fair, which toured widely for three years. Because of this initiative and her efforts to advance the careers of women in the music business, Sarah McLachlan received the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Visionary Award in 1998.



## Poetry Pause



## Places to Go and See...

Take a walk through Bowring Park and enjoy the Lights



Skating at the Loop in Bannerman Park

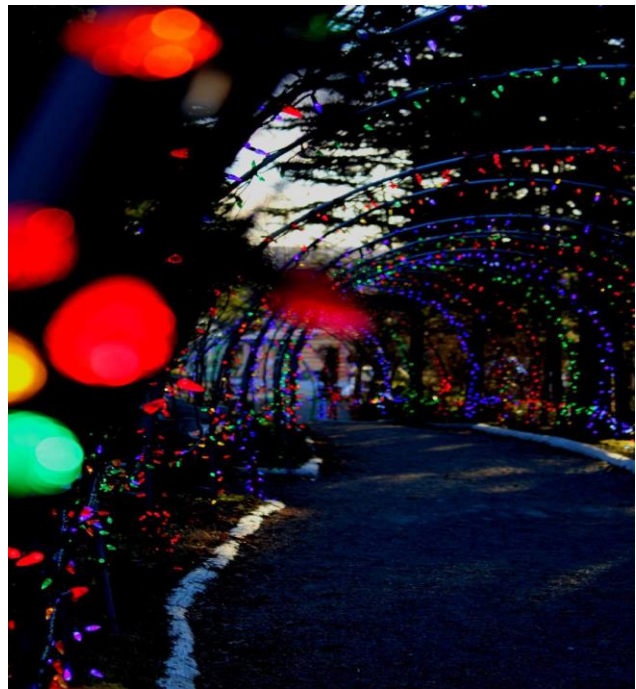


Take a drive down Water Street and the Water front to see the lights

Port De Grave Boat Light festival



Memorial University Botanical Gardens  
Merry and Bright Light Festival





## From Kitty's Kitchen

# Quick & Easy Honey Pear and Apple Tart

### Ingredients:

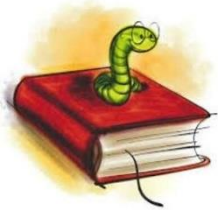
- 1 package (2 sheets) frozen puff pastry, thawed
- Egg wash: 1 large egg beaten with 1 Tablespoon milk
- 2 large pears, thinly sliced
- 1 Apple thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup of raisins
- 2 Tablespoons coarse sugar (or brown sugar)
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds
- Sea salt for sprinkling
- Honey for drizzling



### Instructions:

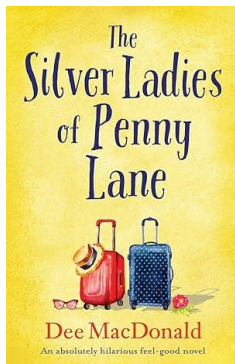
1. Preheat oven to 375° F (191° C). Line a 9 x 12 baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat.
2. Unroll the pastry sheets on a floured work surface. Place the edge of one over the other and use a rolling pin to adhere them together. Roll the whole thing out into 9 x 12-inch rectangle. Fold over the edges and crimp down with a fork. Crimping is much easier the colder the pastry is, so place into the refrigerator to chill if needed.
3. Brush the entire pastry, edges included, with egg wash.
4. Toss the pear slices, apple slices and coarse sugar together. Line the pears and apples on top of the pastry. Sprinkle with almonds and raisins and sea salt.

- Bake for 35-40 minutes until the edges are golden brown. Remove from the oven, place on a wire rack, and allow to cool for 10 minutes. Drizzle with honey before slicing and serving. Can be served with ice cream or whipped cream.



## From Kitty's Library

### A Good Read...



#### THE SILVER LADIES OF PENNY LANE

BY **DEE MACDONALD**

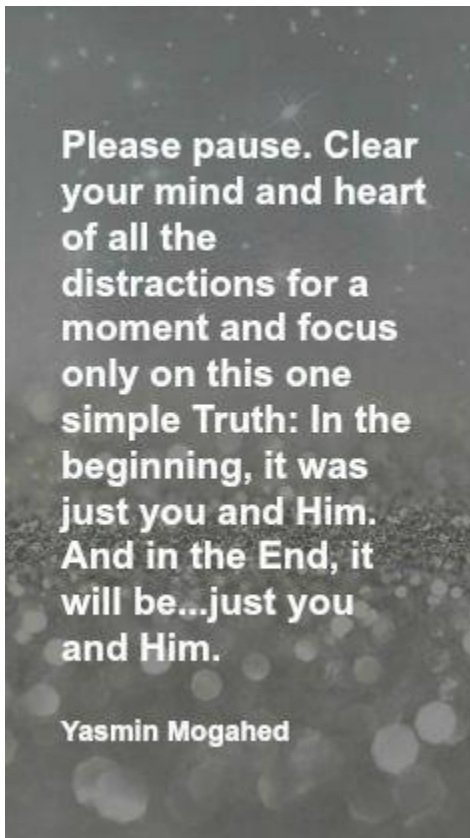
**Tess** and **Orla** have been best friends throughout most of their adult lives. So when life gave them lemons and their loved ones let them down, they pooled their resources and bought a dressmakers shop on the corner of Penny Lane. And they've been doing just fine ever since.

But one day, while studying her tired eyes and shapeless figure in the mirror, sixty-two-year-old Tess realised that she doesn't want her life to be *just fine* anymore. She wants it to be *extraordinary*. For as long as she can remember she's put everyone else first. Now she wants to rediscover herself – and experience the kind of whirlwind adventure that will have the power make her smile when she's confined to the armchair of a retirement home.

With the encouragement of fun-loving and quirky Orla, Tess joins an over-the-hill dating agency and the two friends book a singles cruise around the Mediterranean. And that's when their adventure of a lifetime really begins...



## Pause for Thought



### Catherine McAuley: Dates of Interest

#### January 27, 1822

William Callaghan signs his last will and a codicil designating Catherine McAuley as his sole Beneficiary.



### **January 25, 1829**

Death of Catherine McAuley's brother-in-law, Dr William McAuley. Each of his five children chooses her as legal guardian. She is now the adoptive mother of nine, including Catherine and Teresa Byrn, Ellen Corrigan, an orphan, and Ann Rice, a homeless child.

### **January 23, 1832**

Seven women at Baggot Street receive the habit of the Sisters of Mercy at the first reception ceremony; Mary Josephine (Catherine) Byrne, Mary Frances (Frances) Warde, Mary Angela (Margaret) Dunne, Mary Teresa (Mary) Macauley, Mary Clare (Georgiana) Moore, Mary Magdalen de Pazzi (Mary Anne) Delany, and Mary Agnes (Anna) Carroll. Mary Aloysius (Anne) O'Grady is also received on her deathbed.

### **January 24, 1833**

Four women profess their vows at the first profession ceremony on Baggot Street: Mary Frances Warde, Mary Angela Dunne, Mary Clare Moore and Mary de Pazzi Delany.

### **January 28, 1834**

Catherine McAuley's niece, Mary McAuley, who had lived in Baggot Street since 1828 – 1829, enters the community. She will receive the habit and the name Mary Anne Agnes on July 3, 1834 and profess her vows on October 22, 1836.

## **STORMS AND TEACUPS:**

### **AN ACROSTIC ON THE LEADERSHIP OF CATHERINE MCAULEY**

*(This article was first publised in the ISMA Journal Listen, Vol. 22, No. 1, 2004.)*

#### **Part IV**

## **Humorist**

Her letters reveal Catherine as a woman of gentle whimsy and determined optimism, qualities sorely tested by circumstances, but enduring. She used humour for herself, to cheer her own heart; she used it to lighten difficult circumstances and to create a sense of camaraderie and perspective. She reminds us that joy is a gift of the Spirit, to be relished.

To Elizabeth Moore she writes in October 1840, about trying to make up her mind about a request from the English novices to visit Limerick, a foundation she has praised much in their presence. Outlining the travel costs of such a visit she asks “ought I to sanction such application of money as if it were found on a hill?” She then proceeds with a whimsical dialogue between her Rational and Irrational Self, tossing the pros and cons back and forth. Towards the end of the letter she exclaims: “If you wrote a letter such as this, I would be seriously alarmed for your poor head.” (p.241)

Catherine also uses humour as a way of connecting with the younger members of the Order, appealing to their sense of fun and mischief. It is a winning quality in a leader, and again, it invites camaraderie. Was Catherine the original anti-institutionalizer, whose wit and humour display an anarchic (albeit very gentle) disposition? One of the earliest extant letters to a Sister of Mercy is, perhaps not insignificantly, a light-hearted one. To Sister Mary Delamere at Tullamore she writes in July 1836 what she heads “A Preparatory Meditation.” Its contents, however, belie the earnest title! It begins with warm greetings and then the statement “I am determined not to behave well, and you must join me.” In similar vein it continues, tongue in cheek:

*We will set up for a week what is called a Nonsensical Club. I will be President, you Vice-President, and Catherine can give lectures as Professor of Folly...(p.79)*

We perhaps need to remind ourselves when reading this frivolity that life was tough in nineteenth century Ireland, and that disease, death and physical hardship were daily realities. In addition, Catherine seems to have intuitively recognized that the asceticism of convent life, both the voluntary and the involuntary, needed to be balanced by the occasional “nonsense”. The letter concludes with an affectionate return to reality:

*Of one thing, however, I am sure and seriously so, that I seldom look forward to any change in this world with such happiness as I do to our meeting...(p.79)*

Catherine’s use of humour sometimes has a more overtly serious intent. She occasionally uses it to reprimand and “chide with love”<sup>[vii]</sup>. She writes in simple verse form to couch her comment in the comical, whilst nevertheless making a serious point. For instance, in a letter of March 1841, she reminds Cecilia



Marmion, the Mistress of Novices, of the inadvisability of showing favouritism, clearly a matter of valid concern to her. (p.313)

Catherine used humour as a way of leading with affection and lightness of touch. There is a deftness about how she communicates criticism that must have made it easier for her companions to receive it without rancour. She was no stentorian, but neither was she insipid: she seems to have had the knack of challenging without humiliating others.

### **Next month, Catherine: Enabler**



### *The Last Word...*



*Catherine McAuley*