

Re-Membering

Marianne Creedon completed her novitiate with Catherine McAuley in August 1841 and was professed as a Sister of Mercy. It was Catherine's intention that Marianne, Sister Mary Francis, was to become the foundress of the Mercy Institute in Newfoundland, the first foundation outside of Ireland and England. Francis Creedon was formed by Catherine McAuley and the founding sisters. She was present with Catherine when she died. Catherine had asked to have a few words with each of the sisters and we might wonder what Catherine said to her in her private conversation with Francis just before she died. We can presume that she told her how sad she was that she could not accompany her on the new foundation to Newfoundland. She would have encouraged her to persevere even if she had "no milk for her tea" and assured her that she would be watching over her from heaven!

So here we are today, the 166th anniversary of the death of Francis Creedon, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland. Francis died 15 July 1855. We re-member her! We bring her into our

membership, into our mind and heart in gratitude and appreciation. We ask her to watch over us now in these days of Chapter when we look forward to a renewal and "re-founding of Mercy" in our individual lives, our congregational life and in our living of our mission, our global "Mercy" presence in this 21st century.

This is the eve of the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. All of us have memories of preparing for reception, renewal of profession, and final profession of vows as a Sister of Mercy. We can recall the excitement, the anxiety, the attention to detail that made up the preparations for the colorful (black and white and later, blue and white) ceremonies, the rituals, the decoration of altar, the laying out of habits and veils, rings and crosses, etc. all while trying to complete our preparation retreat. There was polishing of shoes and brass rails, ironing of sleeves and church cloaks, trying a new dimity, arranging of wild flowers and lilacs, choir practice and probably confession. July 16 was a big day – whatever day it fell on it was a day of celebration and deepening of what created and contributed to our identity as a Sister of Mercy.

Today we remember what that day means to us personally and as Congregation. We remember with gratitude the many sisters and others who were part of our initial



formation, who were part of our on-going formation and who were and are part of our life as a Sister of Mercy. July 16 is a marker for us, a day to re-member who we are, where we have come from and where we are going. We celebrate our early commitment and promise to live as a member of this Congregation, to live poverty, chastity and obedience and service of the poor, sick and ignorant.



This day we rejoice with all who celebrate this date in their own personal story. We celebrate and honor Mary as a Congregation dedicated to her as Mother of Mercy. We celebrate with our diamond jubilarians of 2021: Sisters Mona, Ellen Marie, Lorraine and Brenda!

We recall a familiar refrain of our promise and act of faith in God: Whom I have seen, whom I have loved, in whom I have believed, whom I have chosen. Now we listen to these words spoken back by God to us: Whom I have seen, whom I have loved, in whom I have believed, whom I have chosen.

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See some images for 1965: <https://vimeo.com/298138690/4d568a9c0c>

Happy July 16th



Jubilee window in Mercy Convent Chapel