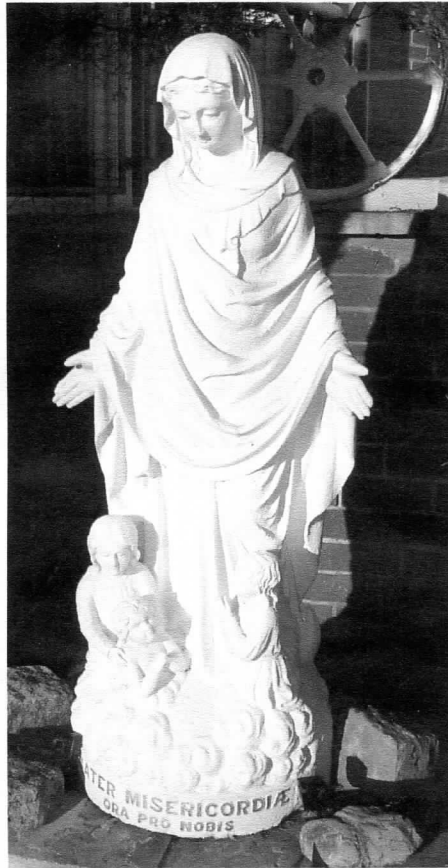


# Catherine and the Young



*"Charity should be our animating principle in undertaking the duty of instructing children or adults, since God is impressed on their souls, which are washed in the precious blood of Christ."*

*from Bonaventure Brennan rsm page 102 of According to Catherine.*

*"Let us fit the children for earth without unfitting them for heaven"*

*Venerable Catherine McAuley*

*It is in our human quality of loving compassion that we most resemble God. God speaks to us asking us to release this gift in our lives and in so doing we share in God's healing love for all.*

*Music: Pour out Compassion and Mercy* (*Woman's Song of God*)

*Pour out compassion and mercy  
From the depths of your heart  
And give to the poor and the broken  
The service of your love.*



*Chorus:* *In so far as you did these holy deeds,  
With all the love of your soul,  
Then you will resemble me, your God,  
And I will make you whole.*

*If you seek out and find the stranger  
And comfort the lonely of heart  
And offer them your friendship  
Then my justice you impart.      Chorus: In so far ...*

*So pour out compassion and mercy  
From the depths of your heart  
And give to the poor and the broken  
The service of your love.      Chorus: In so far ...*

*Opening Prayer*

*O God, of us all, we, your children, lift our voices in prayer and praise. Source of all life and unity, make us one in loving you. Amen*

## Catherine:



*"Let those whom Christ has graciously permitted to assist him in the person of his suffering poor have their hearts filled with gratitude and love; and placing all their confidence in him, ever keep his unwearied patience and humility present in their minds."*

Scripture Love of God and love of neighbour were not two but one with her. Her spirituality has deep echoes of the words of Jesus: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. ... Love your neighbour as you love yourself." Mt 22:37-39

Catherine: "As the duty of instructing and saving, as it were, the souls of children is a divine employment, the same that engaged Jesus Christ on earth, it requires a great deal of humility."

Scripture: "Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10: 13-16

Catherine: "No lesson can be more usefully impressed on the minds of children than the shortness of time; how quickly it passes, carrying them and everything else along with it, and then followed by long never ending eternity."

## Intercessions

O God, your mother Mary is the model of all who are called to holiness. Through her intercession we pray for women and children everywhere who reveal the feminine dimension of your love.

*You have given us family life as a model for nurturing relationships: R: May we foster loving and supportive relationships in families.*

*Our families were our first schools of life and faith: R: May those early learnings continue to encourage us along the path of holiness.*

*For the young who are searching for meaning in their lives: R: May they see in our lives Christ's love for them.*

*Bless those families suffering painful separations because of divorce, abuse, violence or addiction: R: Strengthen them as they seek solutions to the ills that afflict them.*

*Love of God and love of neighbour were not two commandments but one with Catherine: R: Bless us and those families and their children who extend your love to others.*

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. ... Love your neighbour as you love yourself."  
R: Bless those families whose concern encircles the needy and the poor.*

*Quiet personal prayer of intercession ...*



### Personal Reflection

*Catherine's ardent desire was to be united with God and to serve the poor. What is my ardent desire?*

*"God knows that I would rather be cold and hungry than that the poor of .... should be deprived of any consolation in our power to afford"*