

Sr Cindy March, RSW

Good morning!

Thank you for inviting me to share a few thoughts about your new sculpture of Catherine McAuley.

In the summer of 1983, a sister of Mercy gave me the book, "Catherine McAuley, In Her own Words", by Sr. Angela Bolster, to read. It changed my life.

At the time I was not in the Mercy Community. I was teaching art at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, MI and had been given the challenge by my principal to create "something" for the west entrance.

Those two experiences combined to change my life. I was so impressed and touched by the book I was given that described the life of Catherine McAuley that it seemed a given what I would create for the young women at Mercy would be a sculpture of the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

I wanted those who would view this sculpture to see what I saw in Catherine, a woman who cared for the poor, sick and uneducated in her world. I wanted them to see Catherine when she began her ministry. I hoped they would be attracted to a person who inherited considerable wealth and chose to share it with others who were in need.

The description of Catherine McAuley in that book, by a young female artist who would become one of the first Sisters of Mercy, Sr. Clare More, was clear and precise, right down to her square nails, blonde hair and blue eyes.

I hope that people would see the strength of Catherine, her kindness and determination and especially her affection for all of God's people.

Two years after sculpting the first sculpture of Catherine McAuley, I entered the Sisters of Mercy.

It was the very best decision of my life. Now, 36 years later, I am fortunate enough, with the support of my Community, to be able to continue creating sculptures of Catherine and many others who have changed their world and the world that followed them, for the better.

Still now, Catherine's legacy continues to be alive in the ministry to which each of you has dedicated your time here at Misericordia.

Maye you always know that when you come to this campus there is a warm, affectionate smile waiting for you in the presence of Catherine McAuley.

Thank you again!

Marie Henderson, RSM