



A Time for Remembering A Ritual

(As we gather in our many and varied Mercy Homes across the Congregation to remember our dear departed Sisters of Mercy, relatives and friends, it may be helpful to create a prayer space with appropriate symbols and some well chosen music. You will also need a Bible and some candles, unlit at the beginning.)

Introduction:

During these November days, as daylight shrinks in the Northern Hemisphere and frost turns the vegetation brown, we recall the sense of loss we have experienced on the deaths of those we have loved. The members of our Congregation in the Southern Hemisphere are bathed in sunlight and warmth reminding us of our dear departed who died in the hope of breathing the exhilarating welcoming air of Heaven and of gazing upon the Glory of God.

Wherever we find ourselves this November we hold hands across the globe in memory, tribute and prayer for all our loved ones who have died.

Prayer:

**Lord, as we come together to pray for the eternal repose of the souls of our dead, help us to see death for what it really is:
The end of poverty and the beginning of riches, the end of frustration and the beginning of fulfilment, the end of fear and the beginning of tranquillity, the end of pain and the beginning of joy, the end of weakness and the beginning of strength.**

As we live in the hope of being reunited with those who have gone before us we recall the words of Catherine McAuley:

“Each day is a step towards eternity..... until we take the last step, which will bring us into the presence of God”

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5: 1-12

We now take some time, in a spirit of gratitude to recall and then share on how we have been enriched by the legacy of beatitudes/blessings handed down to us by our

beloved dead.

We call to mind: The many blessed mercy women who, walking in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley have carried her spirit of care and compassion across many countries and times.

Our deceased parents, brothers, sisters, friends, associates, and benefactors who have enabled and empowered us to continue to spread 'mercy' across the globe.

**Light candles to honour those remembered
and place in prayer space**

We recall the memory of the thousands who have died this year, alone and forgotten.

We recall too all those who have died suddenly and tragically and we sit in silent prayer for those who are left to grieve and mourn their loss.

Light candles of remembrance and place in prayer space

Conclusion:

In praying for our dead we contemplate the mystery of the Resurrection of Christ.

We recall too the words of St. Thomas Aquinas who wrote:

"....there is a final end which so satisfies one's appetite that nothing else is left for him/her to desire".

SING OR RECITE THE CIRCLE OF MERCY

