

*Remembrance of our beloved
Departed Sisters of Mercy*



*“And the world cannot be discovered
by a journey of miles,
no matter how long,
but only by a spiritual journey,
a journey of one inch,
very arduous and humbling and joyful,
by which we arrive at the ground at our feet,
and learn to be at home”.* (Wendell Berry)

Ritual for Remembering our Dead



Prayer Space with appropriate symbols and music

*Soft music
lighting of the candle*

*Focus for a few moments on the candle
and on the symbols in the centrepiece*

Welcome: We come as a community, to our prayer time today to remember with love our mercy sisters, family members, friends and relatives who have died during this past year. Through our prayer and compassionate presence, may those who have lost loved ones find the strength and understanding they need to cope each day.

May we be patient with life and allow God's mercy and love to be our constant strength. As we support one another in our grief, we pray that God will fill our hearts with deeper faith and stronger empathy.

Lighting of candle



Hymn: Return Home

Return home

Return home

*Return to the essence
of your being*

Return to your truth,

Return to your heart

Return and rest.

Return home

Return home

*Return to the peace that
is your soul*

Return to your truth,

Return to your heart

Return and rest.

[CD Return Home by Jan Novotka]

(To listen to this hymn:

Go to google,

Type [ITunes Return Home by Jan Novotka](#)

Find the CD cover entitled [Return Home](#)

Click [View in iTunes underneath the CD cover](#)

Click [Launch application](#)

Click [No to the next question](#)

Click [Return Home](#)



*Otherwise pray silently the above words entering
into the essence and peace of your soul or
select a hymn of your choice)*

Pause

(Recall in silence the names of those you wish to remember this day.)

Pause

*In the presence of God we remember and give thanks for their lives
and the richness of hope that we have received from them.*

Reading: Book of Lamentations

(Chapter 3:21-26)

I will call this to mind, as my reason for hope:

The favours of God are not exhausted.

God's mercies are not spent;

They are renewed each morning, so great is God's faithfulness.

My portion is my God, says my soul;

Therefore I will hope in God.

Good is God to the one who waits and to the soul who seeks.

It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of God.

This is the Word of God.

Pause

Choose Reflection 1 or 2

A cluster of pink cherry blossoms with yellow centers, some in full bloom and others as buds, set against a soft, light background.

Reflection 1

We live in hope.

Throughout our lives we long, wait and hope for one thing or another.

Living in hope keeps us in touch with our Spirit - the Spirit of God.

Our hope goes beyond this world.

We hope for a life without end.

Our faith gives us a basis for such a hope.

It means that, though we die, we die in hope.

We die in hope in expectation of the dawn.

Pause

Reflect on the question: If some were to say to you

"Speak to me of hope" how would you respond?

Share

Reflection 2

*"We must suffer through to something higher,
something more unified, more conscious, more being in love.
Hope must be born over and over again,
for where there is love, there is hope.*

*Christian life is birthing love into greater unity;
it is our contribution to a universe in evolution.*

*We point the way to something more than ourselves,
something up ahead that we are now participating in,
where heaven and earth will be renewed."*

(Illia Delio - The Unbearable Wholeness of Being. p.198)

Pause

Reflect on the question: If some were to say to you

"Speak to me of hope" how would you respond?

Share

Prayerfully read the names of the sisters who died since last November.

If the name of a Sister from your community/cluster is read, a member of the group comes forward to light a candle/night light in remembrance of her and places it on the centrepiece.

On the centrepiece, Sisters may have placed their own memorial cards, photographs or symbols of remembrance of a community member, a family member, a friend or a relative.

Invite Sisters to take some time to name and pray for their loved ones who have died.

They also may wish to come forward and light a candle/night light in honour of their loved one who has died.



Reflection

Death alerts us to life

*In the recollection of past moments and the tears of
past tenderness*

In the knowledge that every deed we ever do lives on somewhere

In our awareness of the gift of time

In stopping to look at flowers,

In caring for nature

In embracing the planet,

In paying attention

In taking comfort in the darkness and the light.

In remembering 'The Light' that no darkness can take away.

Pause

Prayer

*Stream of Love, all encouraging
Gather us as your cherished ones
In welcoming embrace.*

*Stream of Compassion, bond with us,
Hold our tears in the tender cup
Of your love.*

*Stream of Goodness, pour your light
Into our lives like a sunbeam
At dawn.*

*Stream of Mercy, receive our sorrow
With understanding, as you continue
To believe in us.*

*Stream of Hope, ever glorious
Ever present, kiss our vision
And enrich our dreams. Amen.*

Pause

Magnificat

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the people of the world and for our leaders that the Christian vision of peace, hope and justice for all may everywhere be respected.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for the needy of all continents and countries, particularly those who have experienced great hardship and trauma in recent times.

Lord, hear us.

We remember the members of our Congregation, our families, relations and friends as we recall their lives of love and hope.

We remember them with affection and gratitude, and commend them to the care of our loving God.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who care for the sick and the dying especially those who care for our sick sisters.

Lord, hear us.

We pray that we will continue to be a compassionate presence of God to those who grieve the death of loved ones.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for a deeper awareness of our interdependence and interconnectedness with all of life.

Lord, hear us.

Pray together The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

*Spirit of God, allow us to release our loves ones to You,
still feeling their abiding love and knowing their guidance.*

*Let us stand in solidarity, as they would wish
with the courage of a community of Hope-*

Being Hope to each other and to all of creation.

May we return to your truth and to the essence of our being.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen



BLESSING

*May we go forth with joy and hope,
May we go forth with remembering hearts,
grateful for all that we have shared.*

*May we go forth with arms held wide,
open to what God sends to us for merciful embrace.*

*May we go forth as we take our journey inch by inch
to walk the ways of mercy.*

*May we go forth with enthusiastic faith in God,
in one another and in all of life.*

*May God the Trinity of love - Creator, Word and Wisdom -
Bless each one of all and all whom we love.*

(Adapted from Mary Wickham rsm)

When Death Comes

When death comes...

*I want to step through the door full of curiosity...
Therefore I look upon everything
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood...*

*and I think of each life as a flower...
and each name a comfortable music in the mouth
tending as all music does, toward silence,
and each body a lion of courage, and something
precious to the earth.*

*When it's over, I want to say: all my life
I was a bride married to amazement...*

*When it's over, I don't want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and real.
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened
or full of argument.
I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.*

*Mary Oliver
(House of Light)*
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