

# Using the Sketches in Formation Programs & Reflection

The sketches by Clare Agnew are a visual story of the work of the Sisters of Mercy that can be used in many ways to recall, retell, or reinterpret the story of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy. Here are some suggestions for using the sketches for formation, discussion or reflection with staff, students and wider groups.

- Use the prayers provided in this chapter for staff reflection sessions. A different work of mercy for each occasion would allow added depth and opportunity for personal reflection on the call to mercy (the Living the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy information at the end of this chapter contains a useful list of personal challenges).
- Use the sketches with groups to recall Catherine McAuley's life and ministry. Challenge participants to read the story and the messages within the images. They could be presented in sets of cards, PowerPoint images or posters.
- Give each group a set of the cards and invite them to tell the story of mercy in their own words.
- Use the sketches for a mandala style prayer, where participants add colour as quiet music is played.
- Ask groups to construct their own sketches telling the story of the founding of their own ministry and what is important in the story of the Sisters of Mercy in their context.
- Use a Visio Divina where participants take a sketch and walk with a particular image as a reflective prayer experience. Instructions on using the Visio Divina prayer form are provided in the appendices.
- Match the sketches with words from Catherine McAuley's letters to create posters for display in a staffroom or other communal area.
- Create reflection cards using the sketches. Team these with quotes by or about Catherine McAuley and gift them to others in the workshop – quotes about Catherine McAuley are included in the Reflections section of this resource.
- Tell the story of Clare Agnew and her work. The publication *A Lens on the Works of Mercy: Clare Agnew and her Legacy* by Annette Schneider rsm. (2019) provides an excellent overview of what is known about the artist and her motivation.
- As a ritual, undertake a group presentation of the sketches. Standing in a circle, invite 16 people (one for each corporal and spiritual work of mercy) to step forward with a candle (or lamp) and present the message of mercy within the sketches.
- Ask participants to consider the contemporary statistics around poverty (physical and spiritual) and to create posters capturing those areas which cry out for a merciful response today.