

MERCY PARTNERS BOARD PRAYER RESOURCE

2018



# Hearts of Mercy





**Gathering:** We can't fulfil our baptismal call to live and love and be on this earth in isolation. We are created for others. We are called to have hearts of love – compassionate hearts, open hearts, reflective hearts. The *Theological Framework* calls us to have hearts of mercy.

### **From the *Theological Framework***

The New Testament and early Church never imagined salvation in individualistic terms. The new creation of which St Paul speaks connects the Spirit of Christ to as broad a context as possible, the dynamic emergence of the natural world, and places the life of the Church at the heart of it (Romans 8:18-25). That life charges the history of the world with the meaning of the body of Christ, the meaning of mercy.

### **For personal reflection**

How can you contribute to a Church of love and mercy – a true communion of saints?

SCRIPTURE  
PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 12:20

***“As it is, there are many***

## Reading

Everything we do in life, the Scripture reminds us, goes into the treasury of the heart. The ideas with which we fill our hearts determine the way we live our lives. Those are the things we draw on in those moments when we need to reach down deep inside ourselves for character, courage, endurance, and hope. That's why what we read, what we see, and what we do from day to day counts so much in life. The heart is not an arrow. It is an amalgam of magnets, all pulling in different directions. It is commitment to family, commitment to self, commitment to success, commitment to life, commitment to God, commitment to security, commitment to approval – all jangled and knotted and demanding. Goodness is the ability to choose one over the other when it counts.

– Joan Chittister OSB, *Aspects of the Heart*, 2012.

## Discussion

A heart of mercy: what does this look like in the everyday of your ministry?

## Prayer

God of Justice,

You have commissioned us to work as Christ's hands and feet,

Help us labour for what is right, just and merciful.

Enable us to reach deep inside ourselves for character, courage, endurance and hope.

Bless us with a spirit of generosity, a merciful heart, and the grace to willingly serve you and others.

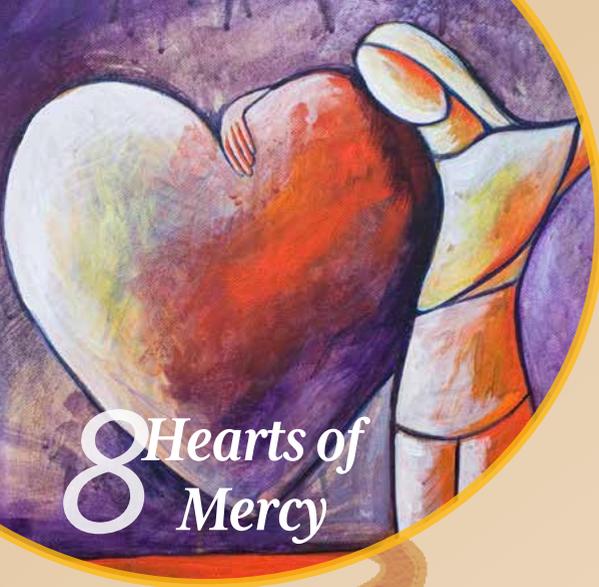
Amen.

Reference: *Mercy Partners Theological Framework*,  
Chapter 2 – The Experience of God's Mercy.

### READ MORE

You can read more on  
heart spirituality from  
the scriptures:  
Proverbs 4:23,  
Luke 6:45,  
John 13:34-38,  
1 Corinthians 13:13.

***parts, yet one body***”



# 8 Hearts of Mercy

## The Path of God's Mercy

A journey in scripture, church and human experience

*Mercy is Relational*

*Mercy is Communion*

*Mercy is Covenant*

*God's Eternal Mercy*

*Gospel of Mercy*

*Walking in Mercy*

*Church of Mercy*

*Hearts of Mercy*

*God's Name 'Mercy'*



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