

USE THIS CHECKLIST AS A PERSONAL REFLECTIVE EXERCISE FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP.

ASK YOURSELF: ARE THERE AREAS ON WHICH YOU NEED MORE FOCUS?

## Mercy Leadership Reflection: A Checklist

### EDUCATION

For Catherine McAuley education was the only way out of the desperate poverty and disempowerment of her time.

**What aspects of education do you need to fight for in your ministry?  
Do you believe in it ... will you fight for it?**

### PERSEVERANCE

Catherine McAuley kept going despite the obstacles she faced. She kept the needs of those made poor at the forefront of everything she did.

**What needs your perseverance and patience?**

### HUMILITY AND SERVICE

Catherine McAuley personally served the poor, supported women in trouble and raised orphans as her own.

**How are you a servant leader?  
What does humility look like in your leadership?**

### COURAGE AGAINST OPPOSITION

Catherine McAuley was criticised by some of Dublin's citizens for her work and found the actions of the clergy unsupportive and often obstructive.

**When have you faced unfair accusations?  
What advice would you give a colleague facing this sort of opposition?  
When have you shown courage when facing challenges?**

### HARD WORK AND SELF-SACRIFICE

Leadership is hard work. Catherine McAuley denied her own comforts and the social and physical comforts of wealth to work with Ireland's poorest people.

**What does self-sacrifice look like from your leadership perspective?  
Do you find that Mercy leadership demands self-sacrifice?**

### PERSONAL FOCUS

Catherine McAuley studied teaching methods to suit the needs of students, she visited the poor in their homes, she visited hospitals and sent sisters to nurse in a cholera outbreak.

**What could you do to personalise your leadership?  
On whom do you need to focus more?  
Do you try to give equal attention to every individual?**

### POSITIVE ATTITUDE

The Sisters of Mercy are described as serving God with joyfulness and filled with hope.

**How you maintain a positive attitude?**

### PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION

Catherine McAuley spent hours in prayer. She practised what we would call contemplative action.

**When are you able to pray and reflect on your leadership?**

### WELCOME AND INCLUSIVITY

Catherine McAuley was a woman with a welcoming heart; her warmth was felt by everyone she met.

**Would a colleague say the same about you?  
Is this a feature of your leadership?  
When do you practise welcome and inclusivity?**

### KINDNESS

Catherine McAuley built a culture of kindness through her example, her words of encouragement, her capacity to forgive and her genuine interest in every sister and every person she encountered in the course of her day.

**Are you kind in the encounters of your day?**

