



## Reflections on the Qualities of Catherine McAuley

Cards for Ongoing Formation Activities



# Trust

### Trust in God

Catherine trusted in God that her dream of the House of Mercy would be built, even though she had many factors against her. May we trust in God to guide the future of our ministry.

When have you trusted God when facing an obstacle? How did it turn out?

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

*Psalm 23:6*



# Hope

### Hope in God

Even in times of darkness and adversity, Catherine continued to place her hope in God. May we do the same in good times and in bad.

Share a time when you didn't have much hope but felt God's presence.

*A father to the fatherless ... is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families.*

*Psalm 68:5-6*



# Satisfaction

### Satisfaction from God

Catherine found satisfaction in her first humble ministry of educating and training local girls and orphans. May we find satisfaction in our ministry of Mercy, no matter how great or small our roles.

What helps you feel satisfaction at the end of the day?

*If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness.*

*Isaiah 58:10*



# Comfort

## Comfort from God

In her grief over the death of the Callaghans, Catherine turned to God in prayer and found comfort in him. May we do the same in our times of trial.

When you need comfort, where do you find it?

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

Matthew 5:3-4

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# Provision

## Provision from God

Catherine realized God provided her with the means to build the House of Mercy through Mr. Callaghan's will. God also provides the means for our ministry to exist and flourish. May we steward these resources as God intends, to alleviate suffering and to give comfort.

Do you have a gift or skill that you believe is a gift from God?

*Then the Lord said, "I have seen the affliction of my people ... and have heard their cry; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them."*

Exodus 3:7-8

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# Purpose

## Purpose from God

Catherine found her life's purpose by emulating Jesus' healing ministry and meeting the needs of her time. May we follow her example today and well into the future.

Do you see a particular need in today's world for Mercy to address?

*For still the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.*

Habakkuk 2:3

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# Courage

## Courage from God

When everyone told Catherine her House of Mercy was a folly, Catherine found courage in her faith. May we do the same as Mercy ventures into uncharted territory to shape the future of health care.

Name a challenge you have faced in which God gave you courage.

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

Isaiah 43:19

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# Confidence

## Confidence in God

The opening of the House of Mercy must have caused Catherine no small amount of anxiety, but she embraced all that came her way with the confidence that God would watch over the ministry. May we share her confidence as we carry on her legacy each day.

How do you encourage others to be confident?

*But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."*

Luke 18:16

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# Strength

## Strength in God

Catherine had to completely change her life at the age of 44, when she was told she would have to become a Sister in order to continue her ministry, but she found a wellspring of strength by trusting in God. May we do the same when unexpected obstacles come our way.

Can you name a co-worker or other individual who has shown great strength in the face of adversity?

*Come, strengthen yourself, and consider well what you have to do ...*

1 Kings 20:22

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# Joy

## Joy in God

Though Catherine's life and ministry didn't turn out the way she expected, she found great joy in fulfilling God's purpose for her. May we find joy in our work and in our lives, no matter where God leads us.

When do you feel joy at work?

*This day is holy to the Lord ... for the joy of the Lord is your strength.*

Nehemiah 8:10

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# Growth

## Growth from God

Catherine's new ministry grew at an unexpected pace both in her lifetime and after her death. Today, Mercy faces challenges from rapid growth. May we, like her, trust in God's wisdom and providence to care for those in need.

Have you, or a person you know, grown in faith through overcoming challenges?

*Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.*

1 Corinthians 3:7

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# Gratitude

## Gratitude to God

Catherine was thankful to God for all he did for her and her ministry. May we echo that same gratitude for being called to serve others through Mercy.

Name one thing for which you are grateful today.

*For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things ... in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him.*

*Philippians 3:8-9*

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# Peace

## Peace in God

As Catherine lay dying, she found peace that she had done what God intended for her and would leave a strong legacy for her Sisters. May we, the modern inheritors of this legacy, also find peace in God and in his call to service in Mercy.

In the midst of trouble, how have you found peace?

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:7*

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# Legacy

## Legacy from God

Catherine's original plan was for lay people to care for those in need. He has fulfilled it through us. May each of us build a legacy for the future through our compassionate care and exceptional service.

Is there a mentor or other influential person in your life who influenced you and whose example you carry forward?

*For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.*

*Psalms 112:6*

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# Love

## Love of God

Catherine loved God so much that she surrendered all to him in her suscipe (her special prayer of commitment to God). May our lives reflect her love and may we, too, be inspired to give all to God out of love for him and for our neighbor.

Who inspires you? How do they inspire you?

*O Lord ... there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart.*

*1 Kings 8:23*

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