

# Living from the Heart

*Give to the poor creature what you have prepared for me ...*

*Mary MacKillop: as remembered by Sister Borgia Healy*

Mary had managed only a very early cup of tea for breakfast before she arrived at the convent in the afternoon. The Sisters had prepared a meal for her. Sister Borgia Healy tells the story:

*Just as she was about to sit to the table, a knock came to the door. I went to see who was there and a poor, half-starved, badly clothed old man stood before me. "Would you give me something to eat, miss?" he said. "I can get no work in this town, not anything to eat. I'm very weak."*

Mother Mary followed me to the door, and when she saw the man, she said:

*"Sister dear, give to the poor creature what you have prepared for me.*

*It will do me more good to give him a dinner, poor old man—perhaps some father that the world has been hard with."*



Artist Unknown

For Mary, that hungry old man was Jesus coming to her door. She often told her Sisters:

*"Never see a need without doing something about it."*

Her *compassion* sprang from her spirit of *love* and *self-forgetfulness*. It knew no boundaries!

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**"I was hungry and you gave me food..."**

*Jesus: in Matthew 25:35*

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