

A mellow heart ...

*"Forgive me everything I have done
to pain or disappoint any of you."*

Mary MacKillop (1881)

Today we visit an incident which shows how Mary's warm heart and generous spirit helped her to have an impact on another person.

Sister Irene told of a time when Mary sent for her.

"Do you want me, Mother?" she asked.

"Yes," was the answer. "I want to beg your pardon for the impatient way I spoke to you when you came to me this morning. I fear I have given you pain and I am sorry for having done so."



She may have felt irritable and thought she had betrayed it in her words or manner, but I had no sense of this and told her so, for she had been most gentle and kind to me.

This little connection came from Mary's readiness to trust in the goodness of another. It brings to mind Ronald Rolheiser's wisdom that

'Sanctity is about having a mellow heart and spirit.'

Most would agree that it was because Mary's heart was mellow that

'She did not lose touch with the people'

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them. (Matthew 9:36)

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