



SEPTEMBER PRAYER SHEET 2020

MARY MACKILLOP EXAMPLE OF KINDNESS

GATHERING: Sit quietly and allow the Divine Presence to settle around you. Gaze at the image on this sheet and allow it to resonate in you. Breathe in the life of the universe ... breathe out love

LISTENING: Listen to a few of the Sisters' stories of Mary MacKillop where this important quality of kindness is personified in her. The Sisters who knew Mary MacKillop spoke time and time again of her compassion and kindness.

Sister Josepha McNamara 1925

"Mother Mary excelled in charity. I can sincerely say that her charity surpasses that of anyone I have ever met or heard of; it seemed one of her greatest delights to help anyone in trouble. She was not satisfied with empty words but got at the root of the trouble and found a remedy – her great charity often moved me to tears. I admired very much the kind manner in which she spoke of those who displeased her. I always felt after a conversation with Mother Mary that I had spoken to a saint."

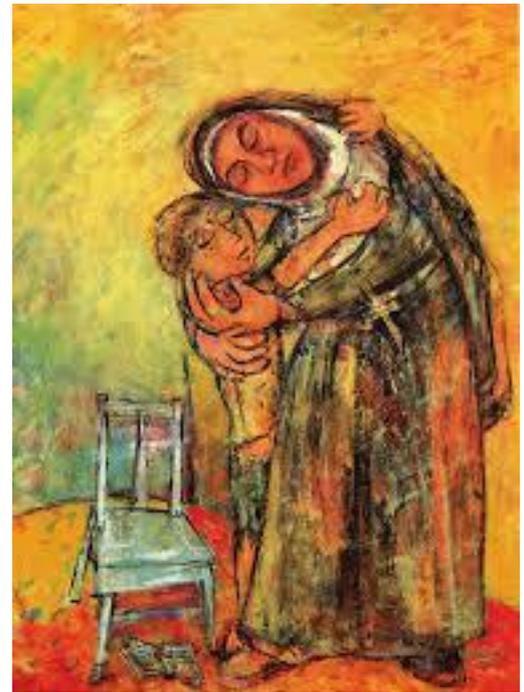
Sister Stanislaus Punyer 1925

"I lived with or near Mother many many years of my early life and always looked on her as a great saint. She seemed so much above us in her love of God and the poor. Her charity knew no bounds. If an unkind word was said of anyone, she was so pained and hastened to take the part of the absent by enumerating her good qualities. Even if there was cause for complaint Mother defended the one in question by a kind remark which would have the effect of reminding us of our own shortcomings..."

Sister Canice Cullen 1925

In 1892 I was a novice at Mount St North Sydney and during my novitiate term was privileged to have charge of dear Mother Mary and this was indeed a very pleasing duty. I loved to go to her with a message. She was always so affable and gentle, and no matter how busy she was she always found time to listen and say what she wished to be done in the matter. Her instructions were very beautiful. She tried to instil her great charity and kindness into our then young minds, her humility and her wonderful resignation to the holy Will of God, and this together with her great zeal for souls, and especially, the poor and neglected must have endeared her to the Sacred Heart. She saw God in everything; even the flowers gave her beautiful pure mind the scope to impress us with the wonders and the beauty of God."

Extracts from: 'Memories of Mary—By Those Who Knew Her' Sisters of Saint Joseph, [1925-26]
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For a perfect emblem of Biblical kindness, we need look no further than Jesus. Crowds followed Him and travelled miles just to hear him speak. Healing the sick, feeding the hungry, teaching the people, caring for the widow, and defending children, Jesus lived 33 years of kindness. He is not asking any more of us than what He willingly practised himself. Even on the cross, Jesus displayed compassionate, merciful kindness praying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Defending the weak, poor, and needy, He stated, "As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me."

Kindness is for every moment of every day; it's a habit, a lifestyle, a continual practice. It is intentional, taking time and patience, a giving of ourselves in "the busy," even when we are "too tired." And lastly, kindness is for absolutely everyone. As we intentionally show kindness each day, may we shine the light of Christ to a world in need of love and grace.

BREAKING OPEN AND SHARING: Share with the person beside you where you have experienced kindness in your own life recently and any thoughts you have from the stories you have heard.

RESPONDING: Let us pray...with the assistance of Mary MacKillop's wisdom

1: For times when we need the guidance of God in our lives.

Mary MacKillop says:

Oh, how I wish we would only remember that we are but travelers here.

Go with strength and courage. Humbly lean on God.

PAUSE

2: For times when we feel the need to be lifted up

Mary MacKillop says:

How truly wonderful are God's ways and how little we understand them

Do what you can and calmly leave the rest to God.

PAUSE

3: For the many times when we lack confidence and feel under resourced

Mary MacKillop says:

You see God gives strength for what is absolutely necessary.

God is all powerful and can do all things

PAUSE

4: For the times we feel concerned about what the future holds

Mary MacKillop says:

Courage then. Work on bravely...hopefully. Do not give way to fears and anxieties.

Remember there is even a day of bright reward for all your prayers and faithful perseverance.

PAUSE

5: For times when we find it difficult being with another person or in a challenging situation

Mary MacKillop says:

Put kind constructions where you can, and where you cannot, be silent.

PAUSE

6: For moments when we want to give praise to our God

Mary MacKillop says:

Are not God's ways wonderful? God be praised for indeed God's ways are wonderful.

PAUSE

Invitation to include other prayers, songs or music that suit your group.

Final prayer: Let us pray

*Living God,
animating presence in our world,
with gratitude we remember the life of Mary MacKillop,
her influence in our world
and her legacy in our Josephite spiritual homeland.
Inspire us, as her people,
to be fully alive in your mission
and faithfully kind among your people.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, friend of the poor,
and the Spirit, filling us with confidence. Amen*



*Statue of Mary MacKillop by Kevin Holland,
Newmarket Co. Ireland
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Joseph*

