

Missionaries of Merciful Love



Missionaries of Merciful Love



A Private Association of the Faithful
(Canons 298, 299)

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36)

Patrons: St. Faustina and St. Therese



Pray for us.
Jesus, we trust in You!

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Way of Life

1. Be consumed by the merciful love of God
2. Love Jesus with a burning love
3. Show merciful love to others
4. Do God's will joyfully
5. Be simple
6. Pray always from the heart
7. Trust in Jesus totally
8. Be humble
9. Desire and strive for holiness
10. Constantly be led by the Holy Spirit
11. Use the gifts of the Holy Spirit,
especially the charismatic gifts
12. Spread the good news of salvation in Jesus



Mission statement

Our mission is to joyfully proclaim the name and message of Jesus in every way imaginable as instruments of God's merciful love for the world.



Sign of Membership

Fully committed members will receive Missionaries of Merciful Love logo, consisting of a heart with a cross on the top with the words "God's will, simplicity, prayer, trust, humility" inside the heart and a metal cross with the initials GSPTH engraved from the top down on the vertical beam, representing "God's will, simplicity, prayer, trust and humility."



Daily Mission

Read a short Scripture passage accompanied by half an hour of contemplative prayer. Seek out opportunities to evangelize in ordinary situations, wherever the Holy Spirit leads us. Use our talents in music composing, recording, and performance as well as music and teaching video production, writing, speaking, drama, dance, art, etc., and the modern means of social communication, especially the internet, to proclaim the gospel of God's merciful love in Jesus Christ.



Weekly Commitments

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Holy hour of Eucharistic adoration



Monthly Commitments

Gathering for prayer and community building.
Free will offering to support our ministry
Monthly day of retreat

“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10)
Have spiritual direction



Yearly Commitments

Yearly week of retreat

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mark 6:31)

“Share his merciful love with the world!”



Rule of Life*

Missionaries of Merciful Love

Dedicated to the Canadian Martyrs

Exaltatio cruxis a mari usque ad mare!
"Lift high the cross from sea to sea!"

"Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God"¹

1. God is calling us, we believe, to be totally consumed and transformed by His merciful love. We desire complete mystical union with Jesus, our Beloved Spouse. We desire to love Jesus with a burning love. Prayer and contemplation will be the foundation of our day and entire life. Following the example of Jesus, we will do our best to maintain an abundance of moments of silent prayer to cultivate and deepen our union with Him. Like Jesus, who was often alone with the Father,² we must also be men and women who find communion with God in solitude, so we can say with St. Ambrose: "I am never less alone than as when I am alone." We believe that "love can do all things"³ and that "the soul who is love with God is a gentle, humble and patient soul."⁴

2. The highlight of our day shall be our communion with Jesus during the celebration of mass when we receive His most holy Body and Blood. Our whole ministry draws its strength from this unique sacrifice. This communion of love shall be extended throughout the day through periods of Eucharistic adoration and frequent brief prayers. We will be mindful of the needs of our parish, diocese and the universal church and intercede for them to the best of our ability. Through our prayers, words and actions we must show merciful love to others. We desire and strive for holiness.

¹ Galatians 6:16.

² cf. Lk 3:21, Mk 1:35.

³ St. Therese of Liseux, *The Voice of the Saints*, Tan. Rockford, Illinois, 1986. p. 21.

⁴ St. John of the Cross, *Ibid.*, p. 24.

3. We shall use the talents God has given us for his glory, such as composing and recording sacred music, painting sacred art, spiritual writing and internet ministry. We will keep before us the admonition of St. Catherine of Siena: "God has given to each of us the talents to sow His words and gather up the fruit of souls. Let us therefore put those talents to work and not bury them in the ground."⁵ We shall strive to live a life of prayer, work, creativity and moments of recreation. We want to be constantly be led by the Holy Spirit.

4. Our rule of life shall be the Gospel, striving to maintain an ongoing union with the merciful Christ. We are to do God's will joyfully, keeping in mind that "a cheerful and glad spirit attains to perfection much more readily than a melancholy spirit."⁶ Following the example of Christ, we desire to conform ourselves to Him, with an interior detachment as to the goods and riches of the world. We trust in Divine Providence for all of our needs. We also seek to be gentle, patient and humble and "accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ."⁷ We will follow the poor and crucified Christ and witness to Him even in difficulties and persecutions.⁸ We seek to "see Jesus in the distressing disguise of the poor"⁹ and "love the poor tenderly, regarding them as our masters and ourselves as their servants."¹⁰ We seek to pray always from the heart.

5. We desire to do all things with, in and for the Blessed Virgin Mary as her loving sons and daughters, imitating her complete self-giving.¹¹ She is the Queen of our hearts. We are all hers and all we have is hers.¹² We welcome Mary as our Mother who leads us to Christ, who makes us sincerely love the Church, who intercedes for us and who guides us toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

6. We are to be apostles of merciful love. We want to bring joy, peace and hope to others.¹³ St. Faustina Kowalska, the Apostle of Divine Mercy, is a model for us of great trust in Jesus and the Divine Mercy of God. We have entrusted our missionary life and ministry in a special way into her care. St. Therese of the Child Jesus, model of the little way of love and spiritual childhood, is also our special patron. We also look to St. Francis of Assisi as a model of simplicity, humility and true joy. We will strive to live a

⁵ St. Catherine of Siena, *Every Day is a Gift*, Catholic Book Publishing, New York. 1984, p. 152.

⁶ St. Philip Neri, (1515-1595).

⁷ (Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, III, 13).

⁸ cf. *Ibid.*, II, 10.

⁹ St. Theresa of Calcutta

¹⁰ cf. St. John of the Cross, *The Voice of the Saints*, Tan. Rockford, Illinois, 1986. p. 30.

¹¹ cf. Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, II, 9.

¹² cf. St. Louis de Montfort, *True Devotion to Mary*

¹³ cf. Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, II, 19.

simple life, observe chastity in our state of life and live in full communion with our Bishop. Above all, we desire to love God and do His will and be docile instruments in His hands to spread His merciful love to our brothers and sisters and all people. We wish to become fire: living flames of God's burning love for the world, bringing purification and illumination to souls. We know that "it is only by sacrifice and suffering, offered as penance, that [we] will be able, by the grace of God, to convert sinners."¹⁴

7. Although we are very weak, and have sinned much in our past lives, we desire to be saints. With God's grace, we will do our best to avoid committing deliberate venial sin and make serious reparation when we fail in this matter. We will also fight with courage against our imperfections in order to be more pleasing to God. We will make frequent acts of renunciation, including regular days of fasting. We will make a particular examen aimed at perfection in a given virtue, such as union with the merciful Christ. We desire to live a habitual life of prayer, even when occupied in external works. We desire to grow in hunger for the holy Eucharist and for Heaven. We will, with God's help, renounce ourselves daily and seek to enter deeper and deeper into a transforming union of love with Jesus in prayer.¹⁵ We want to trust in Jesus totally. We believe that "all Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity"¹⁶ and that "all are called to holiness: 'Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'¹⁷ "Christian perfection has but one limit, that of having none."¹⁸

8. We fully embrace suffering and humiliation as part of this path to transforming union with God. The mystery of the cross of Christ will always be central to our lives.

9. We believe that the charismatic renewal is a tremendous grace and "a chance for the Church," as Pope Paul VI once said. We desire to minister in the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit, using the charisms we have received in Baptism, Confirmation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We want to take to heart the advice of the Church: "Whether these charisms be very remarkable or more simple and widely diffused, they are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation since they are fitting and useful for the needs of the Church."¹⁹ We wish to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the charismatic gifts.

¹⁴ St. John Vianney, *The Voice of the Saints*, Tan. Rockford, Illinois, 1986. p. 81.

¹⁵ cf. Dom Jean-Baptiste Chautard, O.C.S.O., *The Soul of the Apostolate*, Tan. 1946.

¹⁶ *Lumen Gentium*, 40, no. 2-3

¹⁷ cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC]*, 2013; Mt 5:4-8

¹⁸ St. Gregory of Nyssa, *De vita Mos.*: *Patrologia Graeca* 44, 300D

¹⁹ *Lumen Gentium*, 12

10. We seek to live in the shelter of the rays of Divine Mercy, the "Blood and Water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us."²⁰ We desire to tell the world about the mercy and love of Jesus and do whatever is within our power to spread devotion to His mercy. We wish to tell all people that He is Love and Mercy itself.²¹

11. With the Blessed Mother of God, we will proclaim the mercy of God which extends from generation to generation.²² We believe that "God works wonders for those He loves."²³ Jesus rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and brought us into His kingdom of light and we will love Him with all our heart and soul forever. We shall spend our lives sharing the Good News with all people and strive to live out the wishes for our nation that Pope John Paul expressed: "The Church in Canada will be herself to the extent that she is at home and abroad an evangelizing Church."²⁴

12. We seek to "be faithful to the known and unknown saints who have sown in this land the seed that was destined to bear fruit."²⁵ We have been called to give witness to the Kingdom of God and to build a more fraternal world based on the gospel, together with all people of goodwill. We wish to be faithful to this vocation and to practice the spirit of service proper to it.²⁶

13. We have bound ourselves more closely to the Church through our profession in the Missionaries of Merciful Love. We wish to work intently and rebuild the church and fulfill its mission among all people.²⁷ We pledge to spend our efforts to make our community a genuine ecclesial assembly and a living community dedicated to spreading Divine Mercy. We know that "the way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle"²⁸ and "this battle against the Devil . . . is ongoing, because the Devil is alive and at this moment working in the world."²⁹

²⁰ St. Faustina Kowalska, *Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul*, 84

²¹ cf. *Ibid.*, 1074.

²² cf. Pope John Paul II, Homily at St. Mary's Cathedral, Winnipeg, Sept. 16, 1984.

²³ Ps 4:3.

²⁴ Pope John Paul II, Homily for the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, Central Commons, Halifax, September 14, 1984.

²⁵ Pope John Paul II, Address at Uplands Military Airport, Ottawa, Sept. 20, 1984.

²⁶ cf. *Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order*, p. 21.

²⁷ cf. *Ibid.*, p. 22.

²⁸ CCC, 2015; cf. 2 Tim 4:6

²⁹ Pope John Paul II, Address at the sanctuary of St. Michael the Archangel, Monte Gargano, Italy, 1987.

14. We make our own the words of St. Therese of Liseux: "In order that my life may be one Act of perfect Love, I offer myself as a Victim of Holocaust to Thy Merciful Love, imploring Thee to consume me unceasingly, and to allow the floods of infinite tenderness gathered up in Thee to overflow into my soul, that so I may become a very martyr of Thy Love, O my God!"³⁰ May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy patrons St. Faustina, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, St. Catherine of Siena and St. Francis of Assisi and the loving bonds of community always be our help, so that we may reach the goal of perfect Christian love."³¹

15. We will always remember to pray for the holy souls in Purgatory and gain plenary indulgences frequently, even daily, particularly through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for at least one half hour, the devout reading of the Sacred Scriptures for at least one half hour, the devout performance of the Stations of the Cross and the recitation of the Marian Rosary as a community.³²

16. We wish to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus: "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."³³ We wish to spread the good news of salvation in Jesus. Our mission is to joyfully proclaim the name and message of Jesus in every way imaginable as instruments of God's merciful love for the world. In all these things, we rely upon the help of God and the prayers of the whole Mystical Body of Christ.

"May whoever observes all this be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most high Father, and on earth with that of his beloved Son, together with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and all the powers of heaven and all the saints."³⁴

*Revised version of the Rule of Life written with consultation from Sr. Marilyn Kelly, GSIC, Sr. Claire Marie OSC and Jean Work, SFO and approved on September 5, 2001 by Archbishop Adam Exner, O.M.I., D.D., Archbishop of Vancouver, BC, Canada. This present version of the Rule of Life of the Missionaries of Merciful Love was completed on August 28, 2008, Memorial of St. Augustine.

³⁰ St. Therese of Liseux, Act of Oblation to Merciful Love

³¹ cf. Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order, p. 24.

³² cf. The Handbook of Indulgences - Norms and Grants, Authorized English Edition, Catholic Book Publishing Company, New York, 1991, p. 36-37.

³³ Math 28:18-20.

³⁴ St. Francis of Assisi, Testament.

Permanent Commitment to the Way of Life of the Missionaries of Merciful Love



“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36)

*T*o the glory and honour of the Most Blessed, Merciful and Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I, Peter Mason, kneel before this sacred Image of my Merciful Savior, trusting in His goodness and love, assisted by the loving prayers of my beloved spiritual mother in Heaven, Mary, most holy and pure Virgin, my guardian angel, St. Therese and St. Faustina, my beloved sisters in the Lord and St. Joseph, Patron Saint of Canada.

With God's grace, I now commit myself to living the way of life of the Missionaries of Merciful Love for the rest of my life, assisted by the grace of God, for apart from Jesus, I can do nothing. I will spend time each day reflecting on the word of God in contemplative prayer and my vocation to merciful love. I will strive to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live a crucified and risen life with Christ my Lord and King.

I will ponder the words of the way of life of the Missionaries of Merciful Love and do my best to translate them into my daily thoughts, words and actions. My first task will be to be consumed by the merciful love of God. I will strive to be holy.

I will do all in my power to spread the message of Divine Mercy, and lead as many people as possible to Jesus, seeking out opportunities to evangelize in ordinary situations, wherever the Holy Spirit leads me. I will use all the talents God has given me to proclaim the Gospel of God's merciful love in Jesus Christ. I will spend at least one hour a week adoring the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world in an adoration chapel. I will make a monthly silent retreat.

I ask St. Catherine of Sienna, Virgin and Doctor to be my patron saint to accompany me on my journey as a Missionary of Merciful Love. May God, the Father of mercies, be praised, adored, loved, glorified, magnified and blessed by all creatures in heaven, on earth, and below the earth!

Peter Mason

May 27, 2007
Pentecost
Holy Cross Parish
Burnaby, B.C., Canada

Permanent Commitment to the Way of Life of the Missionaries of Merciful Love



“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36)

To the glory and honour of the Most Blessed, Merciful and Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I, Cyndie Grozelle, kneel before this sacred Image of my Merciful Savior, trusting in His goodness and love, assisted by the loving prayers of my beloved spiritual mother in Heaven, Mary, most holy and pure Virgin, my guardian angel, St. Therese and St. Faustina, my beloved sisters in the Lord and St. Joseph, Patron Saint of Canada.

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I ask St. Catherine of Sienna. Virgin and Doctor to be my patron saint to accompany me on my journey as a Missionary of Merciful Love. May God, the Father of mercies, be praised, adored, loved, glorified, magnified and blessed by all creatures in heaven, on earth, and below the earth!

Cyndie Grozelle

June 10, 2007
Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
Holy Cross Parish
Burnaby, B.C., Canada



Prayer for Holiness

Lord Jesus,
fill us with your merciful love
and the fire of the Holy Spirit
that we may be holy and live in
your all-consuming and transforming love.
May we live in peace as we follow you,
doing our Father's will with
simplicity, prayer, trust and humility.
May we follow the example of
St. Faustina and St. Therese
in living the gospel and working
together for the salvation of souls.
Unite our hearts together to an
everlasting union of love with You.
Amen.



Prayer of Trust in Divine Providence

Lord, God of Divine Providence, we praise You for your glory! We trust in you for all our needs, both spiritual and material. Jesus, we trust in you and place all our concerns and plans at your merciful feet. Do with us, Father, what You wish. Send us where you wish, to whom you wish, when you wish, for as long as you wish. Make us transparent so that others may see only Jesus living, working, breathing and ministering through us. Holy Spirit, transform us with Your Divine Fire and move in power in our lives with all the gifts You have given us and still wish to give us. We trust, not in ourselves or our own wisdom or planning, or resources, but totally in Your Providence, Lord.

We give of ourselves, our time, our treasures, our talent, to build up Your Church throughout the world and witness to Your merciful love and the good news of salvation to those who do not yet believe. We consecrate our lives and ministry to Our Lady of Divine Providence, trusting in her maternal care for our every need, for she is truly our Mother and the Mother of our ministry. We believe You are a God of miracles who is able to take care of us in every situation so that we may not lack anything. We give you our past, our present, and our future, as well as our entire being, body and soul, and all the merits we have acquired and will acquire, which we offer through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Virgin and Mother of God, in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Spiritual Union Prayer

Lord Jesus, I kneel before you today to offer myself completely to you, body and soul, as your beloved. I venerate this symbol of your heart and cross as a token of love and mercy. I desire to love you forever. I ask you to completely transform me with your merciful love. I desire complete mystical union with you. I want complete sanctity. Thank you for uniting my soul with my brothers and sisters through faith and baptism.

Help us to love one another as you have loved us. Grant that we may always do our Father's will with simplicity, prayer, trust and humility. May we pray and work for the salvation of sinners and live the gospel, following you in the way of love. Please help me to carry my cross each day. With your help, I will be faithful to you and imitate you as closely as I possibly can. Thank you for calling me to be a missionary of your merciful love. May I sing forever of your mercy, O Lord! Amen.



St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Act of Oblation to Merciful Love

J.M.J.T.

Offering of myself as a Victim of Holocaust to God's Merciful Love

O My God! Most Blessed Trinity, I desire to *Love You* and make You *Loved*, to work for the glory of Holy Church by saving souls on earth and liberating those suffering in purgatory. I desire to accomplish Your will perfectly and to reach the degree of glory You have prepared for me in Your Kingdom. I desire, in a word, to be a saint, but I feel my helplessness and I beg You, O my God! to be Yourself my *Sanctity!*

Since You loved me so much as to give me Your only Son as my Savior and my Spouse, the infinite treasures of His merits are mine. I offer them to You with gladness, begging You to look upon me only in the Face of Jesus and in His heart burning with *Love*.

I offer You, too, all the merits of the saints (in heaven and on earth), their acts of *Love*, and those of the holy angels. Finally, I offer You, *O Blessed Trinity!* the *Love* and merits of the *Blessed Virgin, my dear Mother*. It is to her I abandon my offering, begging her to present it to You. Her Divine Son, my *Beloved Spouse*, told us in the days of His mortal life: "*Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name he will give it to you!*" I am certain, then, that You will grant my desires; I know, O my God! that *the more You want to give, the more You make us desire*. I feel in my heart immense desires and it is with confidence I ask You to come and take possession of my soul. Ah! I cannot receive Holy Communion as often as I desire, but, Lord, are You not *all-powerful?* Remain in me as in a tabernacle and never separate Yourself from Your little victim.

I want to console You for the ingratitude of the wicked, and I beg of You to take away my freedom to displease You. If through weakness I sometimes fall, may Your *Divine Glance* cleanse my soul immediately, consuming all my imperfections like the fire that transforms everything into itself.

I thank You, O my God! for all the graces You have granted me, especially the grace of making me pass through the crucible of suffering. It is with joy I shall contemplate You on the Last Day carrying the sceptre of Your Cross. Since You deigned to give me a share in this very precious Cross, I hope in heaven to resemble You and to see shining in my glorified body the sacred stigmata of Your Passion.

After earth's Exile, I hope to go and enjoy You in the Fatherland, but I do not want to lay up merits for heaven. I want to work for Your *Love alone* with the one purpose of pleasing You, consoling Your Sacred Heart, and saving souls who will love You eternally.

In the evening of this life, I shall appear before You with empty hands, for I do not ask You, Lord, to count my works. All our justice is stained in Your eyes. I wish, then, to be clothed in Your own *Justice* and to receive from Your *Love* the eternal possession of *Yourself*. I want no other *Throne*, no other *Crown* but *You, my Beloved!*

Time is nothing in Your eyes, and a single day is like a thousand years. You can, then, in one instant prepare me to appear before You.

In order to live in one single act of perfect Love, I OFFER MYSELF AS A VICTIM OF HOLOCAUST TO YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, asking You to consume me incessantly, allowing the waves of *infinite tenderness* shut up within You to overflow into my soul, and that thus I may become a *martyr* of Your *Love*, O my God!

May this martyrdom, after having prepared me to appear before You, finally cause me to die and may my soul take its flight without any delay into the eternal embrace of *Your Merciful Love*.

I want, O my *Beloved*, at each beat of my heart to renew this offering to You an infinite number of times, until the shadows having disappeared I may be able to tell You of my *Love* in an *Eternal Face to Face!*

Marie, Françoise, Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, unworthy Carmelite religious.

This 9th day of June,
Feast of the Most Holy Trinity,
In the year of grace, 1895.

