



## Catherine's Relationships Right Relationship with God Week One- Catherine and Faith

Catherine, in faith, desired to be in right relationship with God, through her relationships with others, especially the poor she encountered daily. Catherine had a deep faith in God. But as with most on a spiritual journey, that faith seeks understanding. We know Catherine prayed and read extensively. Catherine also benefited greatly from conversations with her spiritual advisers. Catherine spent her life in relationship with God and attempting to make meaning or understanding of God's call.

Catherine's God is a God of relationship. Her understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is pure relationship. But it is God's desire to be in relationship with us that holds Catherine throughout her life. It is a divine relationship that is then also expressed in human relationships. It is God's expression of mercy to Catherine that calls forth her response in mercy to those she encountered.

Catherine sought to understand the profound call to see Christ in the 'other'. Therefore to be in "right relationship" with God required that she recognised the essential dignity of everyone. Her encounter with the poor was for her an opportunity to minister to Christ and to show mercy to others. For Catherine it was a reciprocal relationship, mercy received and given.

*"Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them."*

Matthew 5:7

*"Mercy, the principal path pointed out by Jesus Christ to those who are desirous of following Him, has in all ages of the Church excited the faithful in a particular manner to instruct and comfort the sick and dying poor, as in them they regarded the person of our divine Master..."*

Original Rule, in Sullivan, Catherine McAuley and the Tradition of Mercy, p. 297

**What are the relationships that give you life?**

**What can you do to be in "right relationship" with God?**

**How do you nourish your faith, who is your guide or inspiration?**

