

Homily
Inauguration of
Dr. Douglas J. Fiore

Today we gather in the spirit of Catherine McCauley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. With a fledgling group of women she set out in Dublin to bring through personal witness to the poor, the suffering, the abandoned and marginalized the irrepressible mercy of God.

The scriptures are replete with examples of God's mercy. Pertinent to today's celebration is the story of the man born blind. He certainly craved a physical healing: Lord that I may see. But the desire of his whole being went far beyond that. He wanted to see with the eyes of his heart.

When sight was given to the man, he had an even greater appreciation of the identity of Jesus. He was on the path of that realization recounted in the first reading: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Little did Catherine McCauley realize that her mission of mercy would expand to institutions, hospitals and other settings all committed to making the Mercy of God their mission, their ultimate objective.

Today as we inaugurate Dr. Douglas J. Fiore as the new president of Mercy College of Health Sciences we expand the legacy of Catherine McCauley. Hope seeks not only the favors of transitional experience but hope of the eternal destination where we will experience God's mercy forever.

In its mission, the College of Health Sciences also seeks through its educational character to develop outstanding practitioners of healthcare, dedicated to the most recent scientific application in their fields.

Thus, in the experience of mercy, it is God’s will that we continuously pursue the best methods of treatment that will promote total healing. But this is arrived at in a manner that fully respects the patient as one made in God’s image and likeness. Every person’s dignity is recognized and therefore treated with kindness and compassion.

This personal compassion extends to the very poor, to the sinner, to the elderly, to those on the margins of society, to those whom Mother Theresa used to gather from the gutters of the street of Calcutta.

The faith guiding the college also speaks to a morality that God has embedded in our hearts – that of the natural law. It is the application of “green” medicine whereby science and religion blend to provide the most reasonable outcome. Mercy therefore, becomes an expression of love and intelligence. The College of Health Sciences takes birth from the vision, spirit and insight of Catherine McCauley and all her sisters in religion and all her loyal followers. In the end what matters most is love.

What animates Dr. Fiore and the community gathered today is service. Their cue comes from Jesus: “whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be your slave.”

The perspective of service supports the attitude which seeks to reach out to every sick person, selflessly, with true humility. It facilitates the love and compassion which figuratively and actually become the best scientific medicine of all.

Dr. Fiore today formally assumes leadership of Mercy College of Health Sciences, an institution in the Mercy constellation dedicated to the Christian vision. He brings outstanding credentials, a passion for excellence and boundless energy to the task at hand. You are welcome Doctor and we are grateful for your coming.

In the spirit of Jesus you come as a servant leader, one who is committed to giving of himself. You do so that others might be helped. The example of giving to all especially God's small ones stands to develop a culture at Mercy that always exists to serve authentic health, body and soul.

As we welcome you, our heartfelt prayer is that your time as President will be especially blessed and that God will reward you and your family with his peace and love.