

## *Message from Sister Elizabeth, Sisters of Mercy*



In this the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of its founding, we, Sisters of Mercy, are rejoicing in the achievements of Mercy Connections. As a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas- Northeast Community, Mercy Connections today follows closely the tradition established by our foundress, Catherine McAuley in Ireland more than a century ago. As she saw the marginalized persons in her society ravaged by poverty and other vicissitudes of life, she realized that the best means of overcoming these ills was education and other empowering programs. In Vermont we had similar needs and Mercy Connections responded.

Presently, in addition to many competent professionals, Mercy Connections is served by a number of Sisters of Mercy who are teachers, tutors, mentors and volunteers.

Mercy Connections was launched into uncharted waters under the wise and energetic leadership of Sister Lindora Cabral. Her spirit still guides us. Then God blessed us by sending Betsy Ferris as our second Executive Director; her creative and tireless dedication guided us effectively until her life found a new direction. We will be forever grateful for her leadership and wonderful spirit. Now we have our new Executive Director, Dolly Fleming. Dolly is well known and highly respected in Vermont business and professional circles. Her enthusiasm and high expectations have us all energized. God has truly blessed us with enlightened and dedicated women leaders.

Catherine McAuley had unusual success in providing programs for the uneducated and the suffering. One secret to her success was her ability to surround herself with like-minded, highly ethical and committed lay people. Mercy Connections has followed her example. A host of lay women and men have labored long hours working with the Sisters. Without their unselfish dedication, we could not have achieved the results we have.

And, so, now on to the next ten years!