Prologue

In writing this reflection on *The Spirituality of Venerable Catherine McAuley as Rooted in the Beatitudes*, we hope to bring to our Sisters and Mercy Associates, particularly of the Providence Region of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, deeper insights into what has been called "the spirit of Mother McAuley." We hope to discover not only the richness of her growth in the Spirit but also the value of an integrated Gospel-centered spirituality which, as a result, is not dormant but always alive and open to new expressions and new ways for any age. For indeed "His Mercy is from generation to generation."

It was not our intention to make a documented study of our sources particularly in reference to the life of Mother McAuley since we were writing for those we believe to be already familiar with those sources. Our primary source, of course, has been taken from Mother McAuley's own writings, supplemented from such contemporary authors as Sister M. Carmel Bourke, R.S.M., Sister Angela Bolster, R.S.M., and Sisters M. Joanna Regan and Isabelle Keiss, R.S.M. We also found invaluable the scholarly essays of Sisters Sheila Carney, R.S.M., Mary Sullivan, R.S.M. and Mary Daly, R.S.M., in the *Mast Journal* of Fall, 1992.

For the sake of clarity, we have structured each chapter with an explanation of the general meaning of the Beatitude in question, or any other related terms. This is further enriched by a chart found in the appendix which shows the relationship of each Beatitude to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as conceived by St. Thomas Aquinas and elaborated in *The Divine Pity* by Gerald Vann, O.P.