

Rā Whānau **SUZANNE AUBERT!**



'Always pick the little flower of hope'



19 June 2018 is Suzanne Aubert's 183rd Birthday

You are invited to join the celebration!

Make a bunch of flowers for Suzanne Aubert's birthday with your school, church or community group.

Send your flowers to the Sisters of Compassion for the Birthday Mass in Wellington or use them to decorate your own celebration.



compassion *te pūaroha*

www.compassion.org.nz/schools



Create your Flower or a whole bouquet!

1

Read "Suzanne Aubert is an inspiring person for us today."
Learn more about her life and work--explore videos, books, and other resources at <http://compassion.org.nz/schools/suzanne-aubert/>

2

Make your flower(s)--Get creative!

Make paper flowers out of plain or decorative paper. You can use one of the templates provided or look on the internet for paper flower templates. Your flower can be 2D or 3D. (Search for "diy paper flower".) Or use another earth-friendly material like harakeke.

3

Make a gift tag.

On the front, write "Happy Birthday Suzanne Aubert" in your chosen language and with your favourite name for Suzanne (check out the information pages).



4

Say who it is from.

Write your first name and the school, church or other community you belong to.

5

On the back of the gift tag...

... pick your favourite quote from Suzanne's 'goodie kete'. Perhaps it is one that, like Suzanne's little flower, gives you hope. You may also like to write a birthday message. This can be a thank you, a reflection, or anything else appropriate.

Suzanne Aubert is an inspiring person for us today

Suzanne loved God and always thought about what he wanted her to do, not what she wanted, even when that wasn't easy.



Suzanne left her home in France and came to Aotearoa to support the Māori people.

Suzanne honoured Māori people, their tikanga, reo and rongoa.

Suzanne looked after the sick, people with disabilities, children whose families couldn't care for them, and the elderly. The work she started continues to this day in places like Wellington's Compassion Soup Kitchen.



Suzanne established New Zealand's only home-grown congregation, the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion, who are now known as the Sisters of Compassion.

Suzanne worked in and visited many places in New Zealand and the Sisters continued her work here, in Australia and the Pacific.



Suzanne is buried at Our Lady's Home of Compassion in Island Bay, the home she built, which has cared for many people and which is the mother house for the Sisters of Compassion.

What is your local connection?

Suzanne saw Christ in everyone she met and always helped people most in need.



Happy Birthday!

Which language would you choose to say
Happy Birthday to Suzanne Aubert in?

*What is your first language? What are the first languages in
your school, parish, local community?*

Say it in French, the country of Suzanne's birth

Joyeux Anniversaire

Say it in Māori. Suzanne spoke Māori fluently

Rā Whānau

Say it in English

Happy Birthday

Or say it in your language!

Choose the Name you would like to greet Suzanne Aubert with

Suzanne Aubert

Suzanne's full name was Marie Henriette Suzanne Aubert. She was born in France in 1835. When she was about two, she fell through an icy pond and became temporarily crippled and blind. She died in Wellington New Zealand in 1926, aged 91.



We don't have any photos of Suzanne as a young girl. This is a photo of the house her family lived in.



Peata (seated left) and Suzanne Aubert (right)

Meri Hōhepa

Many people know Suzanne as Meri Hōhepa. Suzanne learnt Māori (before she learnt English) on the whaling ship that brought her to New Zealand. When she arrived in New Zealand Peata taught Suzanne tikanga and rongoā. Suzanne lived and worked with Māori people in Auckland, Hawke's Bay and Hiruhārama.

Sr Mary Joseph

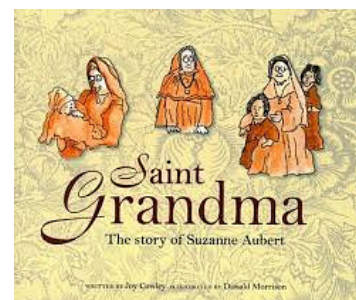
Suzanne took the name Sr Mary Joseph as her religious name. Mary and Joseph are special names because they are the names of Jesus' parents.

Mother Aubert



When Suzanne began the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion, she was known as Mother Aubert because she was the Mother Superior (the head sister). Many simply called her "Mother".

Saint Grandma



Suzanne loved children and especially those who had no parents to look after them. Hundreds of children knew Suzanne by the name "Grandma". Joy Cowley has written a book called "Saint Grandma".

Suzanne Aubert will be New Zealand's First Saint



In this icon of Suzanne Aubert we see:

Suzanne in her full habit and wearing the medal of the Sisters of Compassion.

Kawakawa leaves symbolising Suzanne's knowledge of rongoā and European medicine which she combined in her herbal remedies.

Suzanne's prayer book--it is well-used because she prayed as she went about her work.

The Whanganui River and St Joseph's Church at Hiruhārama (Jerusalem)--Hiruhārama was always dear to her heart. This is where Suzanne founded the Sisters of Compassion.

We are praying that the Catholic Church will recognise Suzanne Aubert as New Zealand's first saint. In December 2016 she was declared Venerable.

Suzanne's 'Goodie Kete' of Quotes

Suzanne Aubert had a gift for words and learning languages.

Today, her quotes are a gift for us. Here are just a few.

Choose your favourite quote and add it to your gift tag.



Thanks be to God for all He has done and is doing for us.



Gratitude is the most beautiful ornament of the human heart



May all my actions today and every day become prayers.



Silence is the most beautiful voice in the world.
It is the guardian of Peace and Charity.



Kindness is what most resembles God



Always pick the little flower of Hope!



Let us have a heart like an artichoke, and such a big one that
everybody can have a leaf of it.

Suzanne's Kete



*This kete is displayed in the Suzanne Aubert Heritage Centre in Wellington.
It is believed to be from Whanganui*

Suzanne always thanked the many grateful people who gave her gifts, and in return she would ask them to care for the gift for her. Suzanne lived too simply to reciprocate in kind, and this was her way of lovingly accepting the gift in the spirit in which it was given.

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Nothing is little in the service of God.



What is prayer? It is simply the speech of the heart to God.



Let us never lose courage on the journey.



Help one another and make use of the many little occasions to lighten a little, when possible, the burden of others.



Let us be kind, and we will give happiness;
for nothing gives more happiness than kindness.



If people laugh at you, laugh with them,
and tell them they are quite right.



Everything is small in life,
but it depends on us to make everything great.



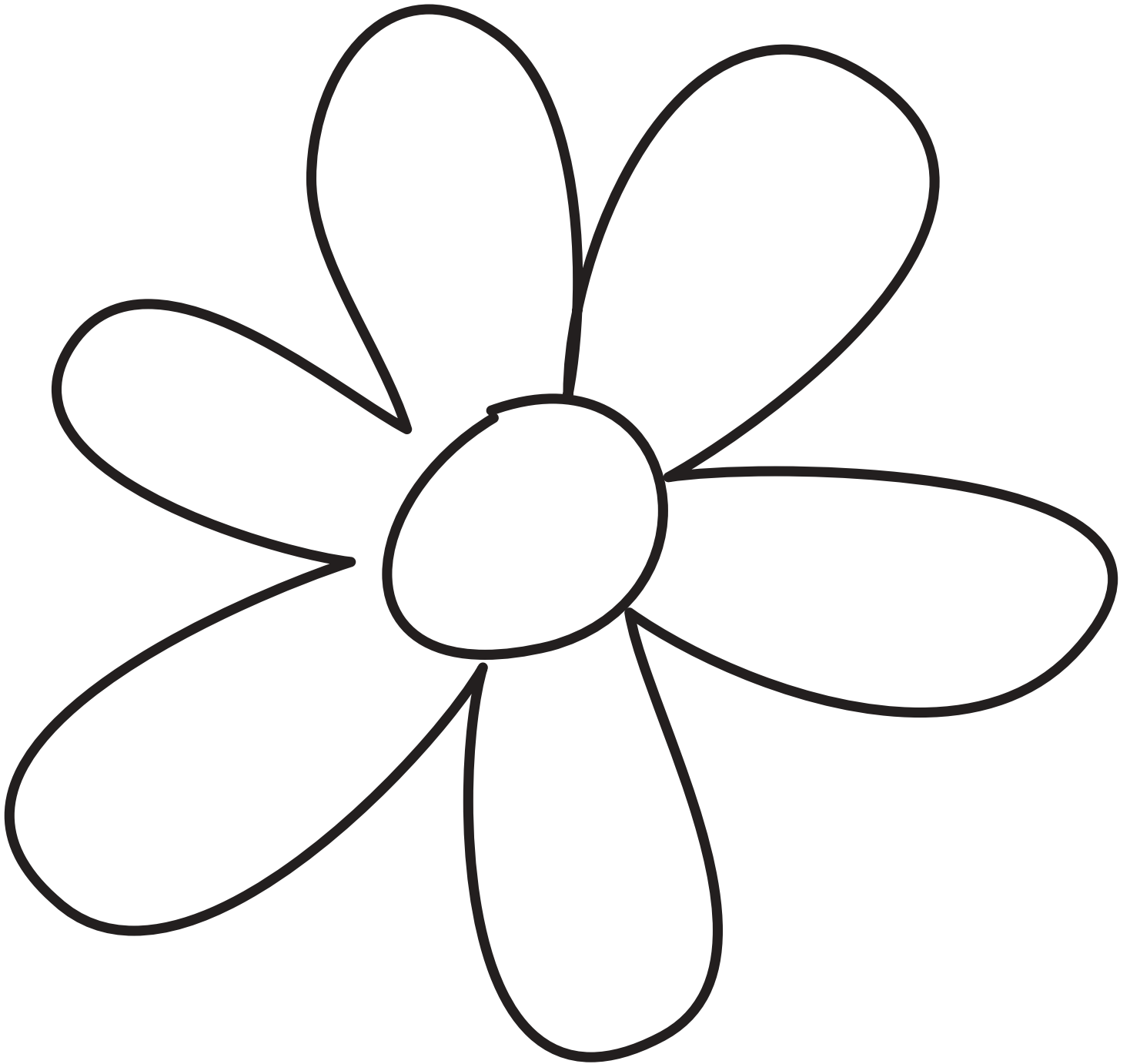
Do your share and God will do His,
and everything will go well.



Most of us have, like plants, hidden qualities
that only chance discovers.

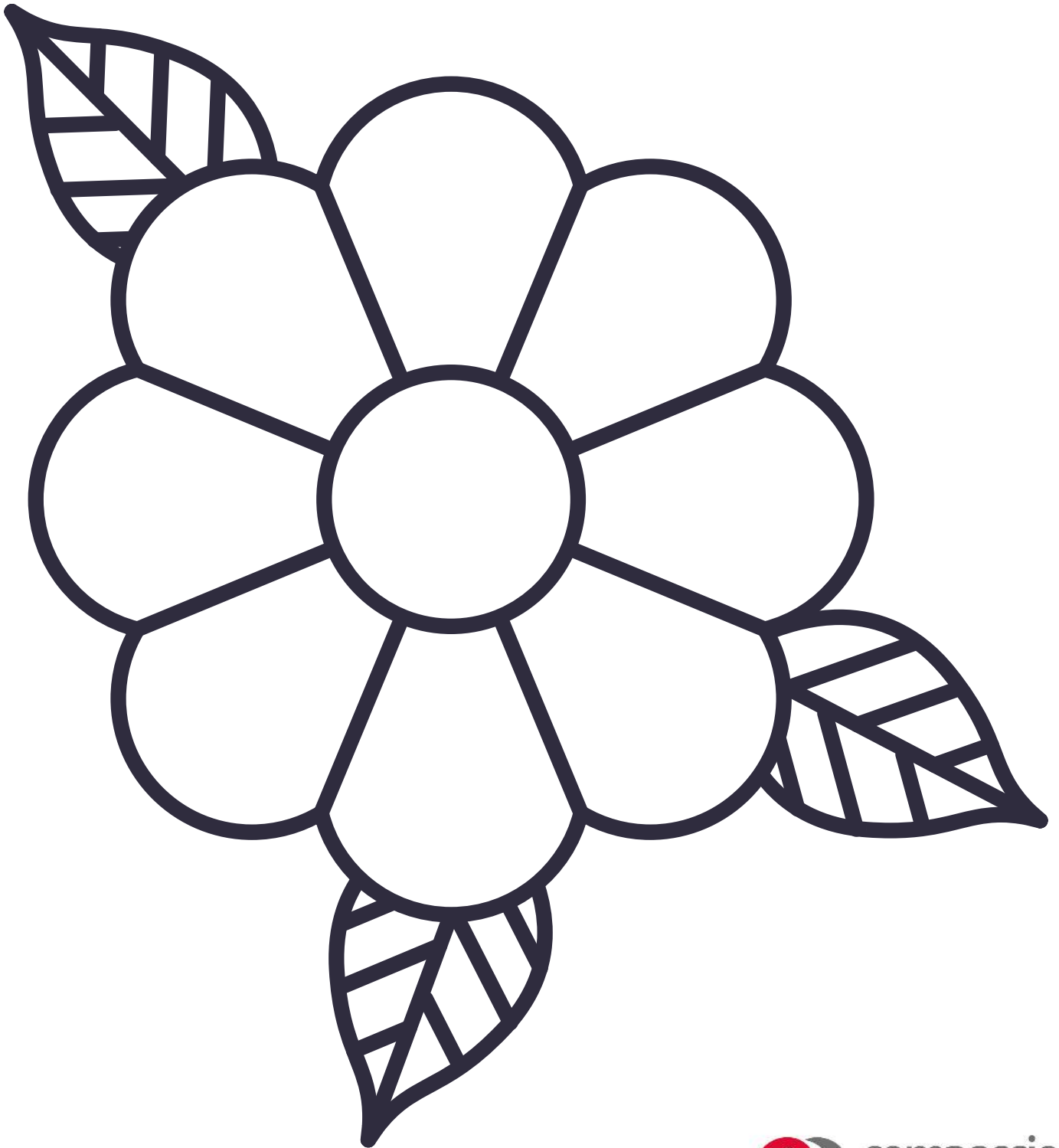
FLOWER TEMPLATE

- Cut out a flower shape.
- Decorate it and attach your gift tag using the "Create your Flower" instruction sheet and the information pages.
- Display your class or group's flowers together in a bunch and decorate your school or church.
- OR send one or more of your flowers to the Sisters of Compassion for the Birthday Mass on 19 June to represent your class or group. See the posting form for details.



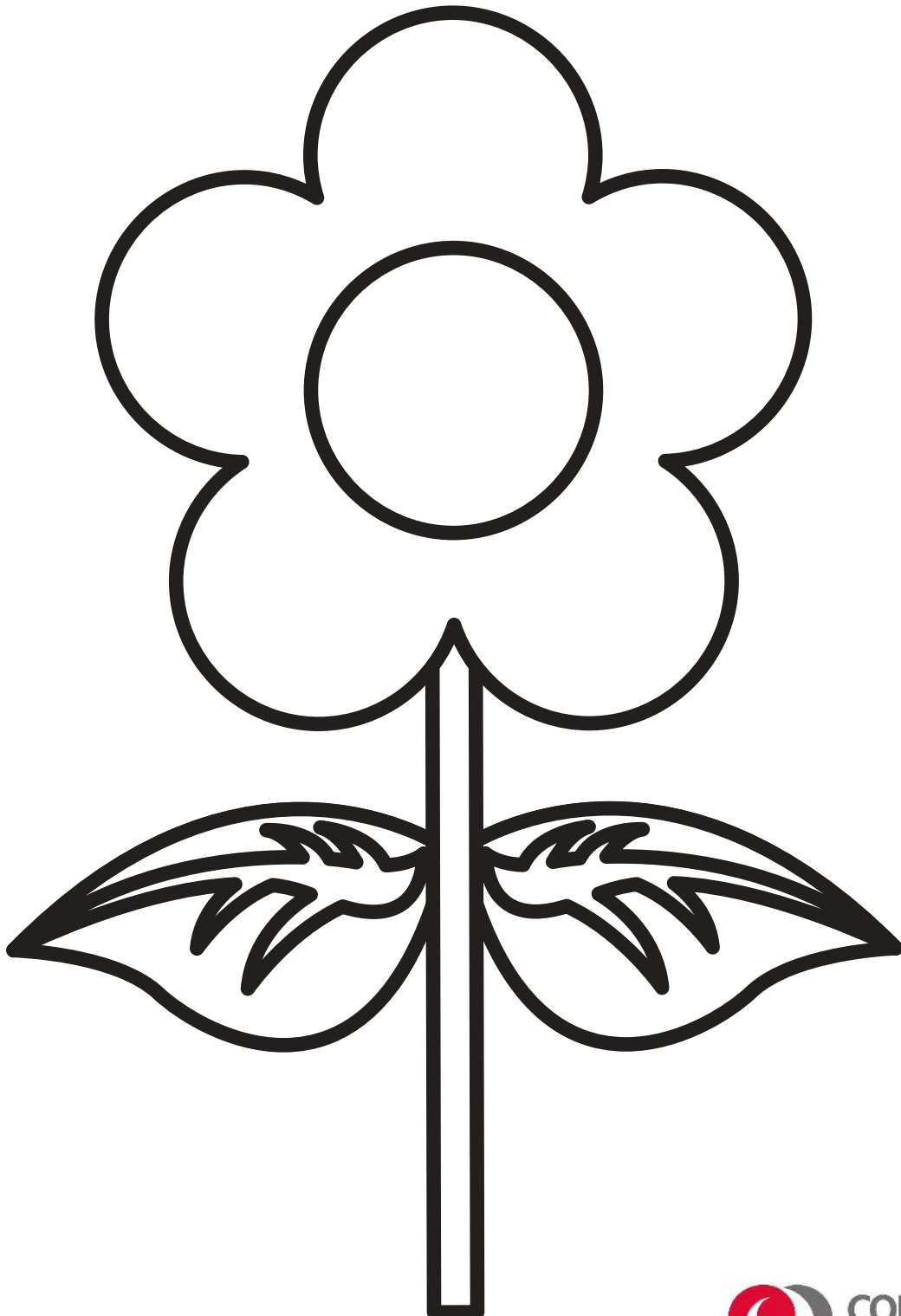
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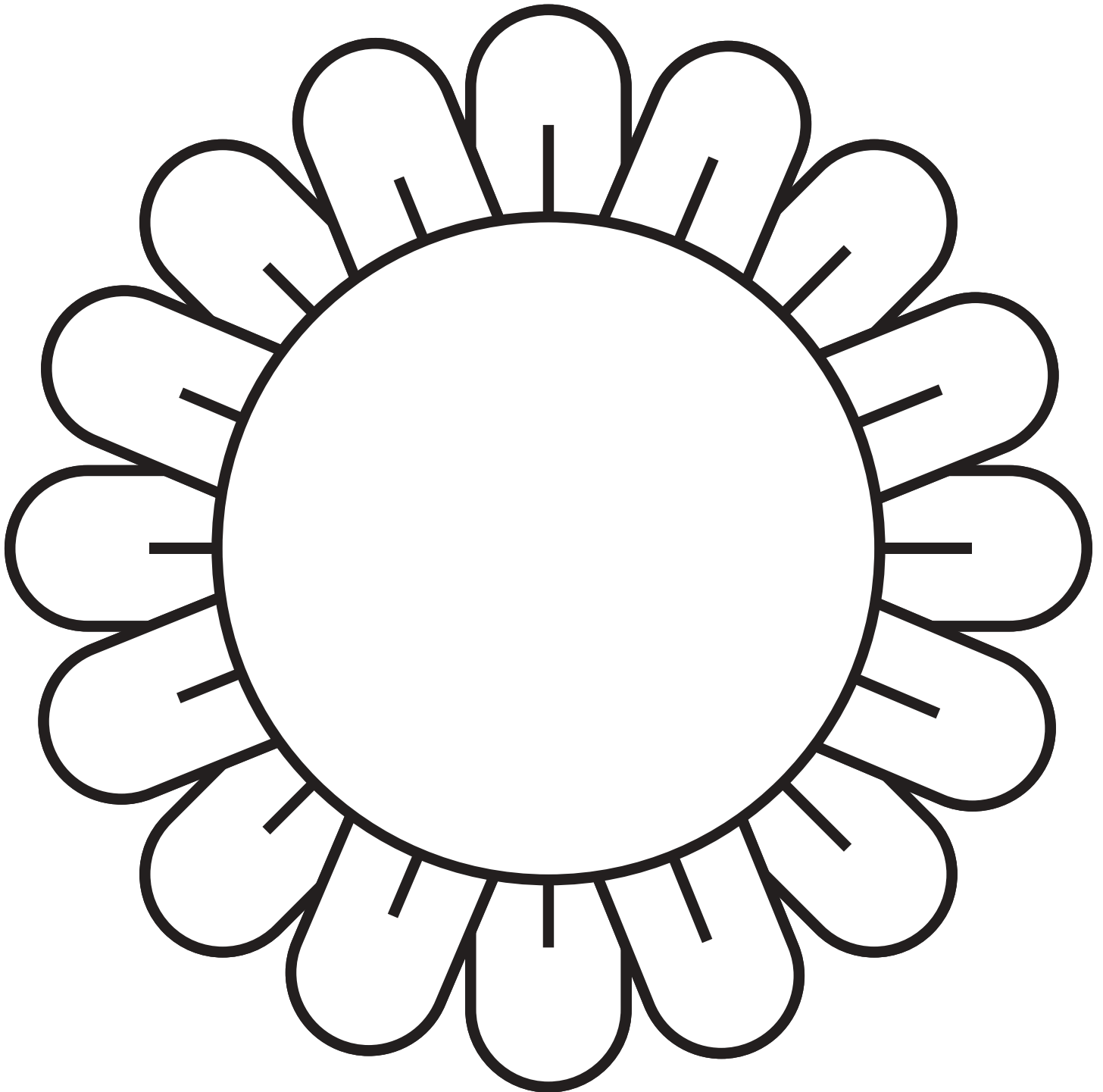
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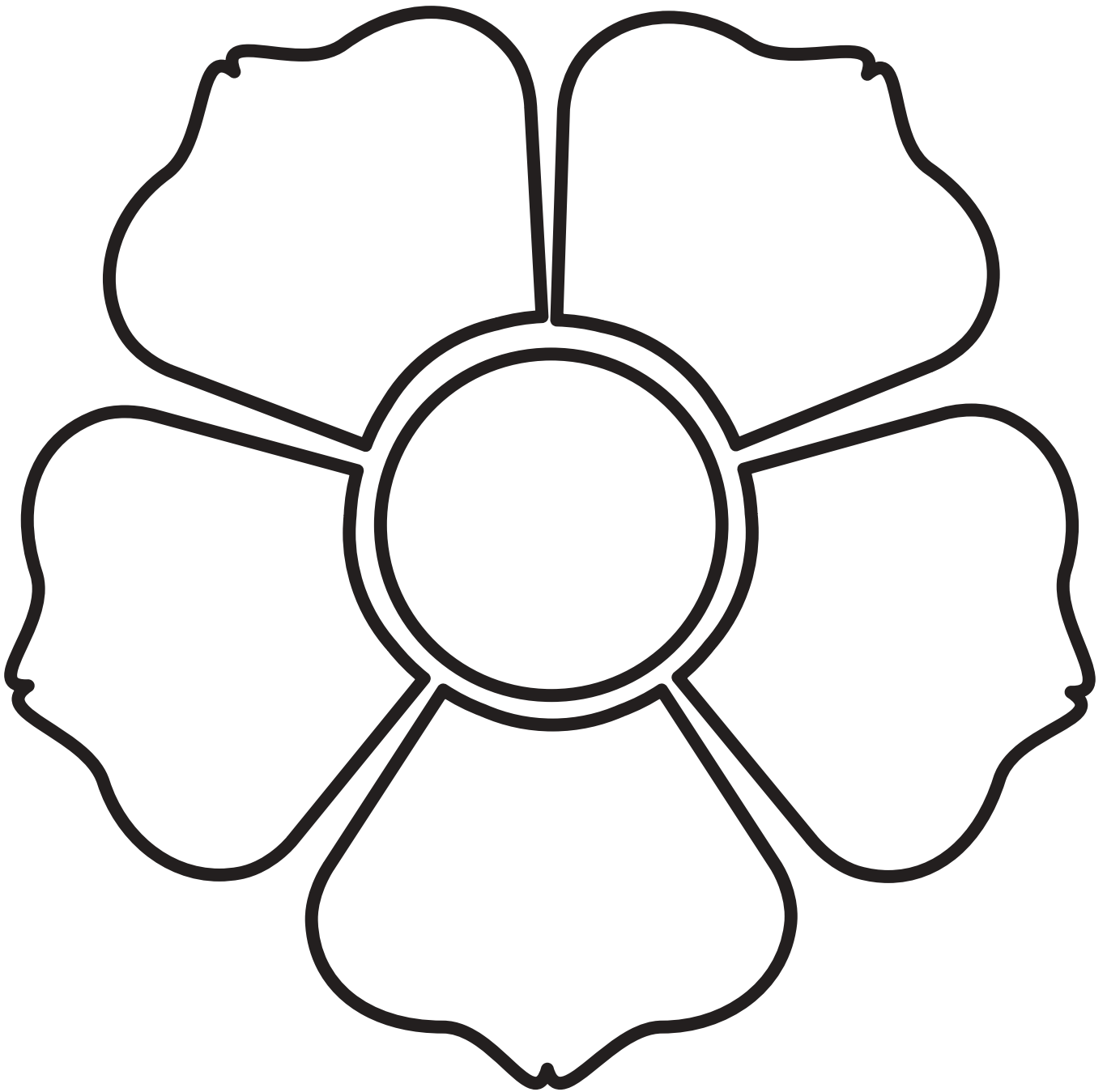
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POSTING FORM

Fill in and send this form with your flower(s) and gift tag(s) to:



The Birthday Mass is on 19 June and we will decorate the church with all the flowers received by that date. You can also send your Suzanne Aubert art to us at other times. We love to receive artwork and will display it in our school gallery at Our Lady's Home of Compassion.

Artist's preferred name (if representative): _____

Age or Year at school: _____

School, Church, or Group name: _____


Contact details for school or group: _____

☐ I give permission for the Sisters of Compassion to use my flower(s) and gift tag(s) for promotional purposes.

☐ I would like my name credited when my flower(s) and gift tag(s) are used for promotional purposes.

Signed: _____

For more information contact:
schools@compassion.org.nz



If a staff member is attending the Catholic Convention, they can drop the flower(s) and gift tag(s) off at the Compassion Schools exhibition table