



# AMSSA

Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association

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## NEWSLETTER 01/05 MAY 2005

Welcome to the first MSEA Newsletter being sent to all MSEA and friends via email.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to this first edition of the MSEA newsletter. The newsletter is one of the strategies being introduced by the Executive to improve communication among members of the Association between our Conferences. It is hoped that members will contribute to future editions and see the newsletter as a valuable means of sharing ideas, news and information relevant to our Mercy schools. In this edition, the members of the Executive have each prepared a short article about their school and/or region. We look forward to your contributions in future newsletters.

At the Biennial General Meeting held in conjunction with our Conference in Melbourne in 2004, it was decided to increase MSEA levies to fund a number of initiatives to improve the functioning of our Association. A key initiative was the appointment of an Executive Officer to ensure that we had someone with the time, expertise and commitment to support the Executive and any Conference Organising Committees and to improve communication and resource sharing. I am delighted to announce the appointment of Sr Frances Fitzpatrick as our inaugural Executive Officer. Frances is a Sister of Mercy and is currently Principal of Catholic High School, Griffith. Frances was previously principal at Xavier High School, Albury and Mount Carmel High School, Yass and has had extensive professional experience in a range of school and non-school settings. She has been a member of MSEA since its inception and so brings with her considerable personal knowledge and understanding of the history and ethos of the Association. Frances has co-ordinated the production of this newsletter, is working with Fraynetworks to ensure our website ([www.msea.org.au](http://www.msea.org.au)) is current, and is providing ongoing administrative support to the Executive. The contact details for all members of the Executive and the Executive Officer can be found on the website.

The Executive held its first teleconference meeting during term one and a significant decision was to postpone the next MSEA Conference from 2006 to 2007. This decision was made in light of the inaugural international Mercy Secondary Educators Conference to be held in Dublin in June/July 2006. Feedback has suggested that many schools would find it difficult to support both the international conference and our own national conference in the one year. The next MSEA Conference will be held in Brisbane in August 2007. In order to provide a national gathering opportunity during 2006, we are going ahead with another of the proposals supported at the 2004 BGM, viz, a Mercy pastoral care conference. This pastoral care conference will be jointly organised by South Australian and NSW members and hosted in Paramatta. A Conference committee, chaired by Christine Simpson from St Aloysius, Adelaide and Kitty Guerin from OLMC, Parramatta, has begun planning what should be a valuable and practical conference for pastoral care staff and leaders from our Mercy schools. Schools will receive details of the Conference as they are finalised. We look forward to your support for these forthcoming key events.

I would like to conclude my President's report with a short profile of my own school. All Hallows' School, Brisbane is an all-girls day school of 1180 students currently from Years 8 to 12. We are in the final year of preparation for the re-introduction of Years 5, 6 and 7 which will begin

with Years 5 and 6 in 2006. The School was founded in 1861 making it the oldest secondary school in Queensland. We share our inner-city site with the All Hallows' Convent, the foundation convent for the Sisters of Mercy in Queensland. Our location on the edge of the CBD, overlooking the Brisbane River, means that we draw students from some eighty feeder schools located all over Brisbane. Our students are from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. We are not a selective entry school, however, we do have a very strong academic, cultural and sporting tradition. Our philosophy of trying to meet the diverse needs of our students means that we provide curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for the range of student abilities – from the elite to the beginner, from the serious competitor to the social teams, from extension programmes to support programmes. We have begun a programme in recent years of trying to link any touring programmes to other Mercy schools and have had sporting teams and music groups visit Mercy schools in Townsville, Sydney and New Zealand. We have also hosted schools from inter and intra state and New Zealand. We welcome contact from any school wishing to visit Brisbane or establish links with our School.

We look forward to the growth of our Association as a vibrant and supportive network of Mercy educators and we welcome your interest, involvement and feedback.

**Lee-Anne Perry (President)**     [perryl@allhallows.qld.edu.au](mailto:perryl@allhallows.qld.edu.au)

## **MERCY SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE**

**Lee-Anne Perry (President) All Hallows School Brisbane Qld**  
[perryl@allhallows.qld.edu.au](mailto:perryl@allhallows.qld.edu.au)

I commenced as the first lay principal of All Hallows' School, Brisbane in 1999 and joined a special Mercy community with a rich and extensive history. All Hallows' School was established in 1861 and since that time has been a leader in the provision of education for girls. It has been my privilege to be part of the wonderful All Hallows' story and to work closely with outstanding religious and lay educators in bringing our Mercy ethos, values and traditions to the current generation of All Hallows' students and families. My previous direct experience with Mercy education was at two schools – Mt Carmel College, Wynnum, Brisbane where I was principal for three years from 1990-1992 and as a teacher at St Patrick's College, Townsville from 1980-82. I have worked in a number of Catholic schools in both New South Wales and Queensland since completing my undergraduate studies at the University of Sydney. While "home" is Point Clare, a small

town on the NSW Central Coast, I am now very much a Queenslander and share the sunshine in the "smart" state with my husband and our son who is currently in Year 9.

**Kitty Guerin (Secretary/Treasurer) Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta** [kguerin@olmc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kguerin@olmc.nsw.edu.au)

Kitty Guerin was appointed as Principal of Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta in 2004. Prior to that she was Principal of St Clare's College, Waverley from 1998-2003 and Assistant Principal at Our Lady of Mercy College from 1993 - 1997. Her main professional interests are education for girls, the use of technology in the curriculum and employment relations. Kitty is married with two grown up daughters and she enjoys finding some time to read and play golf!!

**Jane Holloway Saint Catherine's College Kilburnie NZ** [janeh@stcatherinescollege.school.nz](mailto:janeh@stcatherinescollege.school.nz)

Jane Holloway began at St Catherine's College, a Mercy high school for girls in Wellington New Zealand, in January 2003. Prior to that she was Assistant Principal at St Patrick's College (St Catherine's College's brother school). Originally from South Africa, Jane has two children aged nine and four. She tries to find time to walk, read and play netball.  
<http://www.stcatherinescollege.school.nz/>

**Christine Simpson St Aloysius College Adelaide** [csimpson@sac.sa.edu.au](mailto:csimpson@sac.sa.edu.au)

I am the South Australian representative on the executive of the Mercy Secondary Education Association. My present position is as Deputy Principal at St Aloysius College, Adelaide. St Aloysius College is an all girls school, R-12, of 980 students. The school is located right in the city centre.

This is my 9<sup>th</sup> year as Deputy Principal, and I am responsible for Pastoral Care and coordinate the special education program. Prior to St Aloysius College I was Curriculum Coordinator at Our lady of the Sacred Heart College, Enfield, SA and Year 12 Coordinator and Physical Education Coordinator at Cardijn College, Noarlunga, SA.

**Margaret Lee St Saviour's College Toowoomba Qld** [leem@stsav.qld.edu.au](mailto:leem@stsav.qld.edu.au)

I am in my second year of principalship at St Saviour's College in Toowoomba – about 90 minutes west of Brisbane. St Saviour's is a day and boarding school for girls from years 8 – 12. We have 535 girls, about 70 of whom are boarders coming from as far west as Thargomindah, as far north as Hong Kong and Japan, as far south as

Moree in N.S.W. and quite a few from the East Coast (Brisbane and Gold Coast).

I had twelve years of Mercy education at St Mary's in Charleville and then Assumption College in Warwick before moving to Brisbane for university, marriage, children (daughter Mariana attended All Hallows') and teaching in state and then Catholic schools.

My study of Japanese at uni led me to writing Japanese texts for students and books for teachers on how to teach learners of Japanese. I am currently continuing this interest by doing my PhD (very slowly!) in the area of discrimination of a particular group in Japan.

St Saviour's College has been undergoing renewal through Prof. Frank Crowther's I.D.E.A.S. process. Our staff, students and parents have, in the last 12 months, been re-developing our vision (Dream...Embrace...Become...), re-enlivening our Mercy values of Compassion, Hospitality, Excellence and Justice, defining our college values as Spirituality, Community, the Individual, Celebration and Empowerment and have been developing a school-wide pedagogy based on particular "pedagogical planks" – Authenticity, Voice, Critical Reflection, Experience and Success. It has been an exciting process and will continue to drive the college forward as we now re-work our curriculum and all other aspects of college renewal.

One of the greatest joys in my work is to be able to work closely with my neighbours – five Sisters of Mercy. They provide an excellent source of wisdom, compassion and understanding and are a touchstone for our attempt to keep Mercy alive within the college.

### **Sr Mary Moloney Sacred Heart College Kyneton Vic**

[principal@shckyntn.melb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shckyntn.melb.catholic.edu.au)

It is always difficult to know what to write about oneself! However... I am a Sister of Mercy and have been for the last 20 or so years. I am also the Principal of Sacred Heart College Kyneton Victoria - a position which I enjoy immensely and feel privileged to hold. Prior to my time in Kyneton I taught at St Joseph's College Mildura, Sacred Heart College Geelong, Mercy College Coburg and even further back at Vaucluse College Richmond (a school run by the FCJ Sisters). I was educated at Star of the Sea College Gardenvale which is run by the Presentation Sisters. I entered the Sisters of Mercy after being inspired by their charism which I first encountered when I studied for my Diploma of Education at Mercy Teachers' College Ascot Vale.

I am passionate about education and really enjoy working with young people and encouraging them to reach their full potential. I particularly

enjoy working in such a stimulating environment as Sacred Heart College Kyneton where we have a wonderful staff - staff who are not only very professional, open to change, and absolutely committed to the development of the students with whom they work, but equally supportive of each other.

I continue to be energised and excited by the challenges of being Principal and look forward to the future with hope and enthusiasm.

**Rowena Lambert Mercedes College & Santa Maria College Perth WA** [rlambert@mercedes.wa.edu.au](mailto:rlambert@mercedes.wa.edu.au); [lamr@santamaria.wa.edu.au](mailto:lamr@santamaria.wa.edu.au)

I am currently Director of Mercy Mission for two schools in Perth, Western Australia: Mercedes College and Santa Maria College. Both are all girls and are governed by Mercycare for the Perth Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy.

I completed a BA [Hons] at Sydney University, received my Certificate of Education from Cambridge University in the UK and have finished a Masters of Educational Leadership at the Catholic University of Notre Dame, Fremantle.

I have worked in Catholic education in Western Australia for the last twenty five years as a teacher, Head of Department and Deputy Principal Curriculum. All but two and a half of these years have been at Mercedes and Santa Maria Colleges so I am well and truly 'immersed in Mercy'. The exception was a two and a half year period at the Catholic Education Office of WA as a Consultant in the Planning & Resources division. This provided an excellent overview of Catholic education throughout WA.

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOLS**

**NEWS FROM ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE ADELAIDE - E-REVOLUTION AT ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE from Kathryn Beilby Year 3 class teacher, Primary information & communication technology coordinator**

*From the beginning of Term 1 2005 the smartboard has been a welcome addition to the Year 3 classroom. It is used as a tool to further enhance and compliment the learning already happening in our room.*

Each morning students have the opportunity to use and manipulate the screen. They can access the gallery of templates and choose an activity to complete. The main purpose of this sharing time is to allow students time to become more confident with the smartboard.

I have found the smartboard an invaluable aid to my teaching. We are using the smartboard software across the curriculum. There are numerous

templates for all curriculum areas which have allowed me greater flexibility in introducing new topics. I can write on the smartboard, change the writing to font if required and print off the work produced. I have been able to save my lessons and use them again at a later date for those students who were absent or who did not complete the task.

The World Wide Web is accessible at any time. This gives students the opportunity to safely search the Internet to find answers to any questions we may have on a particular topic. As a class we have been able to work through Webquests which has enabled all students to experience success with their learning. Before going to the computer lab for individual work I am able to go through the task on the Smartboard which allows the students greater understanding of what is required.

### **Comments from Year 3 students:**

*It is interesting because none of us have seen it before so we want to know what it does.* **Tess**

*It is fun because you can write on it and rub out with your fingers.* **Lauren & Caitlin**

*It is interesting because you can drag pictures and create new things.* **Karen**

*It is cool because you don't need to use a mouse - you can just drag things on the board with your finger.* **Rhaneela**

*It is modern technology.* **Shabana**

*It is different because not many other computers can do what this can do.* **Taylor**

*It is interesting because we learn new things every day.* **Simone**

*It has changed the way I learn.* **Erin**

**Christine Simpson**     [csimpson@sac.sa.edu.au](mailto:csimpson@sac.sa.edu.au)

### **NEWS FROM ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE KILBURNIE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Friday 22 October 2004 was a momentous day. It was the day I was overwhelmed both emotionally and physically by the generosity of people. So often in today's press we read about the nasty things people do and very rarely do we have occasion to revel in the good. This was a day when I could truly say, "People are good!"

I had been approached by a woman from UNESCO about a world-wide programme they were trialling in Wellington. The more I heard about the project the more enthused I got. I agreed immediately. It was a monumental task which I knew I could not achieve alone. Thus began Operation Christmas Child.

"Imagine the Childlike joy of boys and girls as they open their present on Christmas morning. Now, imagine that joy magnified tenfold as a child who has suffered the effects of war, natural disaster, poverty, illness or neglect, receives a shoe box overflowing with gifts."

This unique programme of assistance and evangelism really touched the hearts of the students and staff. A healthy competition began, with the year levels vying against each other. For two days my office became Santa's Grotto with every inch of available space covered in shoe boxes, wrapping paper, toys, clothes, toiletries, sweets and elves working feverishly to wrap, check and label boxes.

On the Friday we aired on Radio Rhema outlining the project and requesting donations of \$7 to accompany the boxes. Listening to the radio broadcast and then fielding the phone calls was a very moving experience. We had a builder working in Auckland on a construction site to families in Nelson, making donations. The people of this world are good!

I had set a goal of 150 boxes; a bit of a push to reach in only two days. As I was leaving at 7:20pm on Friday I was met by a carload of Year 13 students. "You can't go yet, Mrs Holloway, we have more boxes!" I was elated. The final tally was 282 boxes. Remarkable! The people of this College are good!

Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, always emphasised the value of the "considerate action when dealing with poor" the students and staff of St Catherine's College certainly demonstrate this. Ralph Waldo Emerson once stated, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no one can sincerely try to help another without helping themselves." We thank God for our generous hearts resulting in generous actions.

**Jane Holloway**      [janeh@stcatherinescollege.school.nz](mailto:janeh@stcatherinescollege.school.nz)

## **NEWS FROM SACRED HEART COLLEGE KYNETON – SPIRIT OF ANZAC**

Recently, Sacred Heart College Kyneton was notified that one of our students, Caitlin Caruana in Year 10, was one of the winners of the inaugural, Victorian Government funded, "Spirit of ANZAC Competition". This followed a rigorous statewide, two stage selection process involving a written essay and an oral presentation. This competition was open to all students in Year 9 2004 in both Government and non-Government Schools in Victoria. Of the many applications received, 9 students were chosen to be part of the Spirit of ANZAC Tour which took place 15-27 April 2005. This involved the students travelling to England, Belgium and Northern

France, visiting the battle sites of World War I and other sites of significance. The students were joined by the Victorian Premier, Mr Steve Bracks. As part of the tour, students were allocated a place of significance to research prior to the commencement of the study tour. Each student then gave a formal presentation to the other members of the group as they reached their particular place of significance on the tour. The students gained much from the experience and we were very proud that a student from Sacred Heart College Kyneton was one of the winners. Caitlin was an extremely worthy recipient who well deserved this honour.

**Sr Mary Moloney**     [principal@shckyntn.melb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@shckyntn.melb.catholic.edu.au)

### **NEWS FROM ST SAVIOUR'S COLLEGE TOOWOOMBA – CELEBRATING OUR LADY OF MERCY DAY**

All Home classes were given the Catherine McAuley Quiz the day before Mercy Day. By the middle of Mercy Day itself they had to hand in ONE class response to the answers. The home class with most correct answers won a college pen for each girl. The girls seemed quite excited by the puzzle as they hadn't done anything like it before.

We also had a re-enactment of the life of Catherine at the end of Mass. The drama students did a magnificent presentation. We then had two of the Sisters tell their story to the girls. Because the sisters were nervous, we kept it short – 15 minutes in each group - but the feedback was the girls wanted more and the sisters didn't feel that they finished. In 2005 we hope to schedule a longer period. Do you want a copy of the Catherine McAuley Quiz? Contact the editor on [principal@catholichighschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:principal@catholichighschool.nsw.edu.au) and you will receive one by email or visit

[http://www.sac.sa.edu.au/AboutUs/AboutUs\\_files/cathmac.htm](http://www.sac.sa.edu.au/AboutUs/AboutUs_files/cathmac.htm)

**Margaret Lee**     [leem@stsav.qld.edu.au](mailto:leem@stsav.qld.edu.au)

### **NEWS FROM MERCEDES AND SANTA MARIA COLLEGES PERTH - DIRECTOR OF MERCY MISSION**

The Director of Mercy Mission is a new position created in 2004 at the suggestion of the Principals at Mercedes College and Santa Maria College, Perth. Both these Colleges are owned by the Perth Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy.

The Director of Mercy Mission is not involved with the coordination of Religious Education or liturgies but rather is solely concerned with working with staff, parents, students and Boards to ensure that the Mercy ethos and charism is an active and ongoing part of the life of both Colleges. This is particularly important given the declining number of Sisters of Mercy

actively involved in the Colleges and the handing over of the governance of the colleges to Mercycare, a public juridic person, for a trial period of four years.

During 2004 the main focus of the Director of Mercy Mission has been the telling of 'Catherine's Story' to senior students, the staff [teaching and non-teaching] as well as to College Boards. In addition, a session on 'Our Shared Mercy Heritage' was run for the Principals and Board members of Perth's six Mercy secondary colleges.

This year I have coordinated a one day joint induction for the new staff of both colleges on 'Faith Story & Witness' and will be continuing the Mercy story for staff members with an emphasis on the arrival of the Sisters in West Australia and the history of each college. In addition, we will be working to define our College values and ensure that these are embedded into the curriculum and life of the Colleges as a whole. A Mercy Focus Group has been set up in both Colleges with a view to obtaining feedback from staff on how the expression of our Mercy charism can be enlivened and enriched. This has proved to be a valuable source of ideas and recommendations.

In terms of our students, the story of Catherine McAuley and a study of the Mercy Order have been explicitly included in the curriculum of Religious Education and Society & Environment. A module will also be run with senior students on 'Catherine McAuley: A Role Model for Leadership'. In addition the Young Mercy Justice Network [described in this newsletter] which aims to raise awareness of social justice issues was launched in both Colleges.

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### **NEWS FROM MERCEDES AND SANTA MARIA COLLEGES PERTH – YOUNG MERCY JUSTICE NETWORK**

In January 2005 ten students from Mercy schools in the Southern Seas Region of Australia [covering the West Perth, Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne Congregations of the Sisters of Mercy] were invited to attend a gathering in Adelaide. The aim was to encourage student leadership in the area of social justice and establish a Young Mercy Justice Network. The weekend was run and funded by the Sisters of Mercy.

The Perth Mercy schools which were represented were: Mercedes College, Mercy College, Santa Maria College and St Brigid's College [these schools sent five out of the ten representatives].

This is part of an article written by the Santa Maria Service Captain:

The ten of us on this weekend formed the "Young Mercies Justice Tree" (or YMJT) and our motto is "*Making Justice Flourish*". Together we have planned to hold a number of events throughout the year as a way of promoting social justice within our schools. Our key areas that we want to concentrate on for the year (based on the Mercy Sisters 2005 Mission Statement) are:

- Violence against women and children
- The International Campaign to Ban Landmines
- Refugees
- Racism
- Homelessness/Poverty
- Promotion of Project Compassion

We would also like to extend our thanks to the organizers of the weekend: Sister Helen, Sue, Ali and Meredith in Adelaide and to our school for giving us the opportunity to go to Adelaide.

Judging from the enthusiasm of the representatives from Mercedes and Santa Maria Colleges, the Adelaide gathering was a great success. The students agreed to concentrate on two social justice issues each term with the focus for Term 1 being the promotion of Project Compassion and raising awareness of trafficking of people/slavery. With regard to the latter the YMJ student leaders at Santa Maria College and Mercedes College have done so by:

- presenting a power point at year level assemblies on the forms of slavery which exist today
- writing articles for the newsletter to inform the wider College community.
- establishing a Library display board

A further gathering in Adelaide is planned for May with both the original participants and further representatives from each school.

**Rowena Lambert** [rlambert@mercedes.wa.edu.au](mailto:rlambert@mercedes.wa.edu.au) [lamr@santamaria.wa.edu.au](mailto:lamr@santamaria.wa.edu.au)

## **NEWS FROM OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA – 1.MERCY ACTION 2005 – INDIA from student Marthese Bezzina**

On December 27<sup>th</sup> 8 girls departed for India along with Paul Lentern, Maria Pearson and Deborah Marriott. We had all been thoroughly prepared for the Indian experience, yet the actual experience is impossible to imagine – the smells, tastes, colours and people that make up India.

One of the first experiences, and one of the most eye opening, was a visit to a group called Chetanalaya. This Delhi group is associated with Caritas, and works to empower the poor through education. We were lucky enough to meet a number of people living in the slums ourselves - we played with children, visited vocational classes and a women's self help group, and attended a town meeting as special guests. As occurred throughout India,

the children were amazingly open and friendly and were always eager to shake our hands or smile for a photo.

This was just one of a number of amazing organizations that we visited – including the South Asian Human Rights Centre, South Asian Coalition Against Child Labour, a Loreto school for street children and a L’Arche community for the disabled. One thing that all of these groups had in common, was that they were run by people facing incredible challenges such as appalling poverty, ignorance or government inaction –yet who remained dedicated and optimistic. As well as educating ourselves as to social justice and social welfare in India, we were able to see many of India’s well-known sites, including the Taj Mahal, a Gandhi memorial and the Ganges. We also spent one evening with a Jesuit organization in a rural village, and spent two days hiking in the Himalayan mountains in Darjeeling.

I think that we have all come back from India with a few new skills – such as eating spicy food, crossing busy roads, speaking a little bit of Hindi and bartering! More importantly though, we met some amazing people and had unforgettable experiences in the process of becoming more aware of how the other half of the world lives.

## **2. MERCY ACTION 2005 – ITALY AND IRELAND from Anne Youssef Year 11**

There aren’t many ways to describe the experience of the Italy/Ireland Mercy trip, besides saying it was simply brilliant. The opportunities it presented all of us on the trip were definitely some that we’ll remember fondly forever. There were 16 girls and 3 teachers from OLMC on the trip and from the very beginning the positive energy flowing through all of us, set the scene for the trip.

Our first stop was Rome where we visited many churches, basilicas, tourist sites and good restaurants with our guide, Mariella, who revealed to us the fascinating history and lifestyle of the Romans. We were fortunate to have an audience with Pope John Paul II which was an experience in itself. When we arrived in the hall, instead of the quiet reverent audience we were expecting, there were people chanting, Mexican waves flowing through the audience and to our great pleasure, an Italian soccer team also attending. Needless to say that being in the same room as the Pope was a brilliant experience. The very next day after having climbed the 320 steps to the top of St Peter’s Basilica Dome, we were yet again in the presence of the Pope giving us the Epiphany blessing, but this time we were out in St Peter’s square and so was the majority of Rome, or so it seemed.

There's no way of comparing Ireland to Italy as they are completely different in every way possible. For starters, where Italy was concentrated in Rome, our trip through Ireland was much more spread out and allowed us to see the beautiful country on our long trips to places such as Glendalough (where the monastery of St Kevin is), Avoca (the town which the old TV series, Ballykissangel was shot) and beautiful County Kilkenny where we spent 3 days discovering the ancient town and visiting the Waterford crystal factory, Blarney castle and St Brigid's College. We also visited our sister school, Mercy College and Coolock House, the house where Catharine McAuley cared for Mr and Mrs Callaghan, whose legacy to her enabled her to start the House of Mercy in Dublin.

Possibly one of the most surprising experiences while we were in Dublin was our visit to the Mercy International Centre. Although most of us weren't expecting it to be that exciting, it gave us all a really good insight into the works of Catherine McAuley. The nuns have preserved the building beautifully and they gave us a great tour. The effort of the nuns to try and maintain unity between all the Mercy sisters and their works throughout the world is quite admirable and definitely made you proud to be a Mercy girl. Our final night in Ireland came too fast but is one of the most memorable as it was the only night it snowed and it was beautiful.

The Trip overall was brilliant as I said before and I would recommend to anyone that they take the offer next time it comes as it was well worth it and will be a trip I will never forget.

**Kitty Guerin** [kguerin@olmc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kguerin@olmc.nsw.edu.au)

## RESOURCES

### **Mercy and Justice Shall Meet**

**This interactive CD-ROM was made for the Mercy International Association and has won the Best of Category Education and Training section of the international Horizon Awards.**

*Mercy and Justice Shall Meet* is an interactive CD-ROM which, through digital story-telling, assists users to engage with the Inspiration of Scripture and the Mercy tradition. Stories of human experience, suffering and hope offer new ways to do justice together. It was produced by Fraynetwork Multimedia for the Mercy International Association

*Mercy and Justice Shall Meet* uses a narrative approach with the telling of 8 key stories which are case studies drawn from different parts of the world among the 44 countries where Sisters of Mercy and their co-workers live and work to alleviate sickness, poverty and lack of understanding.

The CD-Rom begins with a “trailer” of images of the people and places featured within the stories told in the CD-Rom. A menu of options is displayed once this “trailer” is finished. The menu gives the user the option to choose from 8 case studies.

The 8 case studies are predominantly set in the developing world and address issues of

- HIV/Aids
- Family Violence
- Housing
- Alcoholism and Addiction
- Empowerment of women
- Refugees
- Minority groups
- Marginalised peoples

Three themes underpin these stories: *Violence against Women and Children; Racism in all its Forms; and Displacement of Peoples*. These areas of concern were nominated by recent Mercy International Justice and Leadership conferences.

A 4 step process – **Story, Context, Inspiration, Action** - underpins the CD-Rom.

#### Step one: **Story**

In this step we are presented in video format with a place of Mercy ministry to visit and learn from. In story one for example, the place of ministry is Mutomo Mercy Hospital, Kenya and the issue is the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients.

#### Step Two: **Context**

Resources from the featured place and about the featured issue in the form of photographs, statistics, images, maps, demographics and other materials are presented to help the user come to a deeper understanding about the issue dealt with in the story.

#### Step Three: **Inspiration**

In this step the sources of the Christian and Mercy traditions which speak to these critical questions and issues are made available to the user for reflection and insight.

#### Step Four: **Action**

The fourth step offers opportunities for action/behaviour change within ourselves, our communities, our organisations. In the light of the insights the user has gained from examining and reflecting on the issues in the story, looked at in the context of the broader social analysis, and in light of the Scripture and Mercy traditions, s/he is invited to take action to bring about change.

The CD-Rom has a number of significant features including an electronic journal to record thoughts and feelings, a soundtrack of specially selected music and links to

the [www. mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org) website where the content on the CD-ROM will continue to be updated.

Further information about *Mercy and Justice Shall Meet*, including order forms, can be found at the following address

<http://www.mercyworld.org/majsm>

### **The White Band Project 2005 (MIJN)** (From Mercy E-News 28/3/05)

This project is our chance to ask politicians and leaders what they are going to do to overcome poverty, and to demand that they act on it **now**. This is an opportunity for all of us, together, to demand that world leaders act against poverty. You can be part of this global movement by wearing the white band in 2005. To order your white band, use this link,

[www.makepovertyhistory.org/getaband.html](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org/getaband.html)

MIJN contacts worldwide are:

[Angela Hartigan](#) rsm FPP Africa

[Helen Owens](#) rsm FPP Asia Pacific

[Sheila O'Gorman](#) rsm FPP Europe

[Deborah Watson](#) rsm FPP Latin America and Caribbean

[Dale Jarvis](#) rsm FPP North America

### **A PRAYER FOR PENTECOST**

Jesus, you promised us the Spirit to be our advocate and guide.

Recognising your fidelity and our many needs, we pray:

**- Fill us with your Spirit, and send us forth to serve you.**

That we may be renewed in heart and mind:

**- Fill us with your Spirit, and send us forth to serve you.**

That we may see you in your people who are poor:

**- Fill us with your Spirit, and send us forth to serve you.**

That we may speak the truth in love:

**- Fill us with your Spirit, and send us forth to serve you.**

That we may make wise choices for the common good:

**- Fill us with your Spirit, and send us forth to serve you.**

That we may work to bring about a new heaven and a new earth:

**- Fill us with your Spirit, and send us forth to serve you.**

That we may be credible witnesses to your mercy:

**- Fill us with your Spirit, and send us forth to serve you.**

Spirit of Jesus, on Pentecost you stirred the apostles to go out and proclaim the Good News. You blessed them with the faith and courage to carry the gospel throughout the world. Enkindle in us zeal for the coming of the kingdom. Translate our vision of a more loving world into daily acts of justice. This we ask in the name of Jesus, our friend and saviour. Amen.

(Adapted from *Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy*)

## COMING EVENTS

### 1. MSEA INTERNATIONAL FORUM July 6-9, 2006, Dublin, Ireland

#### **"All Roads Lead to Mercy"**

#### **Sister Patty Moriarty's call for participants**

Dear Mercy Educator,

The excitement is building as the plans for our international gathering take shape. The planning committee for the forum to be held in Ireland met in March to plan the conference agenda and program. This letter is to provide up-to-date information on the planning and to invite you to provide input on potential speakers.

Our initial goal for our international forum was to have representation from as many Mercy schools as possible for this historic event. It is our hope that 100 educators will attend the conference from Mercy schools throughout the world. We look forward to participation from schools in Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, North, South and Central America, Guam and the Philippines. If you have contact information on schools in other areas please forward the information and we will include them in our future mailings.

Here are some of the parameters we are working with:

Conference Site Grand Hotel, Malahide, Ireland

Forum Timeline Opening Gathering Thursday, July 6, 2006 @ 6:00p.m.

(registration 4:00-5:30p.m.)

Closing Sunday, July 9, 2006 @ 12:00 noon

Conference Fee US\$250

Hotel (3 nights accommodation with full breakfast & all taxes included) Single US\$550 - Double US\$370 per/person sharing

Registration Materials will be available in October 2005

The conference program is designed to encourage collaboration and connections for all Mercy secondary schools. At this time, **Sr. Helen Marie Burns, RSM**, has graciously agreed to give the opening remarks on **Collaboration**. Sister Helen Marie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the areas of education, internationally and leadership. She is

currently a member of the Institute Leadership Team of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. To facilitate our discussion on Friday, we expect to invite international experts in the field of **Mercy Spirituality**. We will conclude our forum with an in-depth sharing and panel interaction amongst schools from each different continent in the hope of exposing, sharing and discussing our core values within the context of **Educational Excellence**. Saturday will conclude with a reception at **Mercy International Centre Baggot Street home of Mother McAuley!** Sunday morning we will host a liturgy and meet with forum attendees to formulate plans for future conferences, create a plan for an international school directory and conduct forum evaluations. It is our hope that people will then take advantage of the extended travel opportunity and explore Ireland or other areas of Europe.

The core planning committee is committed to inviting and incorporating participation from around the world. We trust in faith that the speakers, panelists and participants at the forum in 2006 will be the voices of challenge and encouragement needed to make this historical event an overwhelming success. At this time, your assistance is needed to surface names of **potential speakers** to address **Mercy Spirituality**. We are looking at this as a multilevel approach: historical perspective, personal as educators, for our students and as Mercy faith communities of education around the world. Have you heard a dynamic speaker that we all need to hear and in so doing walk away from the experience with new energy and insights? Please forward the names and contact information to me at your earliest convenience. As we move forward in our planning, we will be looking for volunteers to plan prayer for our time together and to be panelists for the Saturday program. If you are interested in either of these opportunities please feel free to drop me a note and I will forward your name to the committee member coordinating this portion of the program.

On behalf of the planning committee of the *Mercy Secondary Education International Forum* you are invited to this historic first gathering in Ireland!

Sincerely,  
Sister Patty Moriarty RSM, Mercy High School, 1740 Randolph Road  
Middletown, CT 06457 USA. Email address: [ireland2006@mercyhigh.com](mailto:ireland2006@mercyhigh.com)

## **2. MSEA CONFERENCE FOR MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS PASTORAL STAFF August 2006**

## **3. NINTH MSEA CONFERENCE – 2007**