



AMSSA

Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association

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NEWSLETTER 02/05 AUGUST 2005

Welcome to the second MSEA Newsletter for 2005. Following your most constructive feedback on the first issue, and because the contributions to this second issue are so lengthy, the newsletter is in two parts – on the website and in this email.

Scroll down to find these features:

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- Mercy International Forum
- MSEA Pastoral Conference 2006
- Ninth MSEA conference 2007

3. A MERCY PRAYER

4. THE NEXT NEWSLETTER – FOCUS ON STUDENT LEADERS

AND ON THE MSEA WEBSITE ...

On our website www.msea.mercy.org.au you will find features for Mercy Day.

These are intended for Principals, REC's, Liturgy Co-ordinators, Religion teachers and anyone else getting ready for Mercy Day either in class groups or for the whole school.

Just click on the RESOURCES icon to find:

1. USEFUL WEBSITES FOR MERCY DAY PREPARATIONS

This is a guide through the five most helpful websites.

2. IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING MERCY DAY

There are contributions about whole school celebrations from:

- All Hallows' School Brisbane
- Bunbury Catholic College
- Catholic College Wodonga
- OLMC Parramatta
- Mercedes College, Perth
- St Aloysius College Adelaide
- St Brigid's College Lesmurdie
- Santa Maria College, Perth
- St Saviour's College Toowoomba (reprint from 1/05)
- St Mary's College Wellington - Liturgy for Year 9 Students

3. FOSTERING YOUNG MERCY LEADERS

There are contributions from:

- Susan Holoubek at St Aloysius College Adelaide - The Young Mercy Justice Tree
- Mercedes And Santa Maria Colleges Perth- The Young Mercy Justice Network (reprint from 1/05)
- OLMC Parramatta - Mercy Action 2005: India (reprint from 1/05)
- OLMC Parramatta - Mercy Action 2005: Italy And Ireland (reprint from 1/05)

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Go to www.mercysisters.org.au

On the home page, click on Communications. Mercy E-News is listed there and you can subscribe.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the second edition of our MSEA newsletter! We were delighted to receive very positive feedback from our first newsletter and look forward to using the newsletter to strengthen communication among members.

The Executive is currently focusing on two key activities in addition to the newsletter. These are the inaugural MSEA Pastoral Care Conference to be held in Sydney in 2006. Further details are available in this newsletter. We are also reviewing the "Statement of Purpose and By-Laws" which are the documents underpinning the formation and operation of MSEA. The purpose

of the review is to ensure that these documents accurately reflect the current structure and functions of our Association including the position of Executive Officer. Any changes would require the assent of the membership and we will provide timely advice and clear explanations if our review leads us to the view that changes should be considered.

We see our role as an Executive as providing support to members. Please feel free to contact us if you have any suggestions or questions. I do encourage you to include our Pastoral Care Conference in your professional development programme for next year. Pastoral care is so central to our mercy ethos and the Conference will provide an opportunity not only to listen to a variety of input but also to share the wonderful practices we have in each of our schools.

Finally, on a more personal note, we have been delighted to welcome Alex Murdoch, a Year 13 student from Villa Maria, Christchurch, New Zealand, to All Hallows' for term three. Alex is being hosted by one of our families and is taking an active part in both curricular and extra-curricular activities. The many benefits that come with hosting an exchange student are further enhanced when the student comes from another Mercy school and shares with our students what it means to be a Mercy student in a different school and culture.

Lee-Anne Perry (President) perry1@allhallows.qld.edu.au

COMING EVENTS

1. MERCY DAY GREETINGS

The practice of publishing Mercy Day Greetings on the mercyworld.org website is now in its *fifth* year. These words of warmth, affection, hope and challenge are read with great interest, coming as they do from all parts of the Mercy world, in Spanish, English, Irish and other languages spoken by Mercy people. All members and friends of the Mercy family are welcome to publish Mercy Day greetings on the website. Greetings - **text only**- should be sent to Mercy News by Tuesday September 20th to make sure they are published in time for Mercy Day. Messages to mercynews@fraynetwork.com.au

2. MSEA INTERNATIONAL FORUM July 6-9, 2006, Dublin, Ireland "All Roads Lead to Mercy"

3. MSEA PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE

This gathering will be for staff in pastoral roles in our schools – **Deputy Principals, Directors of Pastoral Care, Year Co-ordinators** It will give those who hold these crucial pastoral roles the opportunity to share their experiences and insights with colleagues in the same field.

The conference will be held at Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta, on **AUGUST 25 and 26, 2006.**

The conference theme:

Pastoral Care – the Mercy way in the 21st Century

Some speakers/workshop presenters are already in place, for such topics as cyberbullying, resilience, managing critical incidents and student management policies

Further information will be published in our next newsletter, or in the meantime you can contact Kitty Guerin kguerin@olmc.nsw.edu.au or Julie Flynn jflynn@olmc.nsw.edu.au

4. NINTH MSEA CONFERENCE – BRISBANE, AUGUST 2007

A MERCY PRAYER

(Adapted from *Morning and Evening*

Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy)

READING Romans 12: 1 - 2

I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

INTERCESSIONS

O loving God, be with us as we gather together, one in heart and spirit.

We pray for all those in need of your mercy:

- *Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For those most vulnerable to oppression or neglect, especially women and children, we pray:

- *Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For all who seek a kind word, a gentle compassionate look or the patient hearing of their sorrows,

we pray:

- *Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For the poor, the sick, and those in need of knowledge and wisdom, we pray:

- *Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For those who are in need of safe shelter and food, we pray:

- *Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

For all those we serve through the spiritual and corporate works of mercy, we pray:

- *Compassionate God, pour out your mercy upon them.*

PRAYER

My God, I am yours for time and eternity. Teach me to cast myself entirely into the arms of your loving Providence with the most lively, unlimited confidence in your compassionate, tender pity. Grant me, O most merciful Redeemer, that whatever you ordain or permit may be acceptable to me. Take from my heart all painful anxiety; suffer nothing to sadden me but sin, nothing to delight me but the hope of coming into the possession of you, in your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Feedback on the last newsletter

Thirteen schools sent feedback about the first edition of the newsletter, and circulated it to leadership teams or to all staff. Positives were the president's report, profiles of the Exec members, key dates and the sharing of ideas. The newsletter is seen as a way to foster our connectedness as Mercy schools and our aim to carry on the Mercy tradition. Suggestions were to keep it shorter, to give prior notice so that schools can get articles in, and to use it to build up our knowledge of each other and our histories.

The **third edition of the newsletter for 2005** will focus on student leaders. I am looking for **four schools** to volunteer their outgoing leaders from 2005 to reflect on their leadership in whatever manner they wish, or by respond to some or all of the following questions through email or by taking part in a telephone interview with me during August or September:

- Can you give us a brief outline you role as a leader
- Can you tell us about your best experience or achievement as a leader in building the values/ethos of your school
- If you had your time as a leader again, what would you do differently
- What advice do you have for the new 2006 student leaders
- What advice do you have for the STAFF leaders of your school (principal etc)
- As exams draw nearer, do you have a message for the final year students in the other sixty schools who receive this newsletter

Notes:

The emailed article or interview transcript will be sent to your principal for approval before being included in the MSEA newsletter, and I need a photo of the leaders for the newsletter.

Only the first four schools to reply to me when you receive this newsletter will be in the feature.

I will give those schools details of deadlines for the emailed contributions and possible dates when I can interview the leaders by phone if this is how the leaders prefer to make their response.

Thank you – Frances