



AMSSA

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.amssa.mercy.org.au>

Email: amssa@mercy.org.au

Newsletter September 2010 No. 03/10

Welcome to the AMSSA Newsletter.

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A Message from AMSSA President, Jane Holloway

As this newsletter is going out to you, we have no definite news about Villa Maria Mercy College in Christchurch New Zealand, but I am sure you all join with me in offering prayerful support for the staff, students and families who are all in some way affected by the earthquake and storms. You may wish to send a message to them at villa@villa.school.nz.

With the feast of Our Lady of Mercy fast approaching, can I take this opportunity to offer you blessings for your celebration.

Jane Holloway, Saint Catherine's College Kilbirnie janeh@stcatherinescollege.school.nz

2011 Conference Update

Reminder Call for Presenters for the Workshops at the 2011 Perth Conference

Do you know of someone who would be interested in presenting a workshop at the Conference? The AMSSA Executive asks you to encourage your staff to consider presenting a workshop!

The workshops will focus on the leadership and education of young people, or the formation of staff in the spirit of Mercy.

Presenting a workshop gives the presenter the opportunity to share with colleagues a particular expertise or project, or something of the character of your own school.

Interested staff can contact Rosa Speranza, AMSSA Conference Officer, at amssa@cathednet.wa.edu.au.

Conference Brochure

The full Conference brochure will reach schools during Term 4 this year.

Conference participants will be asked to nominate their workshop preferences in a separate mailout early next year.

Have you mislaid your copy of the Conference Claim the Date poster?

There is one in the attachment with this newsletter.

Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage and World Youth Day 2011

Who is going from Australia and New Zealand?

Groups who will take part in the Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage to Dublin from August 10-12, 2011, and continue on to Madrid for World Youth Day from August 16-21:

Victorian Mercy Schools

Contact Sister Mary Moloney, Academy of Mary Immaculate Melbourne, or
Darren Egberts, Mount Lilydale Mercy College

New Zealand Mercy Group

Contact Ronel Moore, Villa Maria College Christchurch

Please pass the following information on to your younger staff members, ex-students and any other interested young adults in your area:

General Information for Young People about the Mercy International Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage, planned by Mercy International Association, will be an opportunity for young Mercy leaders, in visiting the Mercy International Centre in Baggot Street Dublin, to have direct contact with the story of Catherine McCauley, her spirituality and the heritage of Mercy in which they share. It will also be a time for them to look to how they themselves can act with her courage and compassion in their own situations.

The Pilgrimage is timed to allow pilgrims to continue on to World Youth Day in Madrid (16-21 August 2011), or to make arrangements for a time of other service in Ireland.

Participants aged between 16 and 30 may register as part of a larger delegation from a Mercy school or ministry. Participants aged between 18 and 30 can come on their own.

Contact in Australia

For more details about the pilgrimage contact Kate Garrone,
kate.garrone@mercy.org.au, or follow the links to **Weaving Mercy into the Future** in the 15 July edition of **Mercy Matters**, on the www.mercy.org.au site.

New Mercy International Website

The new Mercyworld website, www.mercyworld.org, is now live, and is more than worth a visit. Current and recent issues of Mercy E-News take you on guided tours of the various sections of the new site.

Mercy Secondary Education Association USA

The twenty ninth Conference is to be held on October 15 and 15 2010, and will be hosted by Mercy High School Baltimore. For more details go to www.netmercied.org and follow the prompts to MSEA.

Finding God's Traces

You will have seen the flyer about Michael McGirr's book of reflections for every day of the year, sent again as a separate attachment in the email with this newsletter.

The book is designed as a graduation gift to students as a way of acknowledging and reminding them of the Christian values that your school and staff have nurtured in them. There is a scripture quotation and reflection for each day of the year, providing a continuing reminder of God's presence in their lives.

Finding God's Traces may be purchased individually or in quantities for each member of a graduating class or year. Significant discounts apply for bulk orders.

You also have the option of tailoring ***Finding God's Traces*** to the particular ethos and mission of your school by personalising the introduction and including your school's crest on the cover and title pages.

The price is \$40 per copy plus postage and handling with reduced prices for 100 or more copies. If you wish to customize the cover and personalize the introduction the cost is an additional \$1500 for set up. The price scale is set out below. You may wish to order for some years ahead to take advantage of the reduced prices.

COPIES	PRICE
1-99 copies	\$40 + P&H
100-250 copies	\$35 +P&H
251- 499 copies	\$30 + freight
500+ copies	\$25 + freight
Customisation of cover and Intro	\$1500



The Sisters of Mercy have special devotion to Our Lady. She is the “principal Patroness” of the Congregation and her Feast Day is 24 September.

In 1890 Pope Leo XII conferred an image of Mary Mother of Mercy on the Congregation as the “proper emblem” for the entire Order.

The image was copied from a fresco in the Church of San Pudenziana in Rome, and depicts Mary crowned, and seated on a throne, with the Christ child on her knee. The pose is regal, with Mary looking directly out to the viewer. In her right hand she holds a standard surmounted by a Cross. The child sits erect and also looks directly forward. A miniature adult, he extends his hand in blessing. This mother does not cradle her child; rather she offers him to us, and he is already the God of Mercy.

A Mercy Day Litany (adapted from Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy)

Mary, Mother of the poor,

Help us to hear the cry of God’s people.

Mary, refuge of the outcast,

Help us to welcome those rejected by the powerful in society.

Mary, witness to faith,

Help us to enter fully into your Son’s mission.

Mary, woman of prayer,

Help us to receive God’s word and act on it.

Mary, mother of sorrows,

Help us to walk with those who are afflicted and dying.

Mary, mother of all peoples,

Help us to be sisters and brothers to one another. Amen.