



AMSSA

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

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

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Newsletter May 2012 No. 02/12

Welcome to the AMSSA newsletter.

In this issue are featured images and iconography of Catherine McAuley and of Mercy from St Patrick's College Townsville (page 2) and Sacred Heart College Geelong (pages 3-4).

MERCY
ALIVE

SAVE THE DATE
13 - 16 July 2013
Auckland, New Zealand
AMSSA Conference
(Australasian Mercy Secondary
Schools Association)

**Page 5: The Many Faces of Mercy –
Sr Deirdre Mullan's latest publication.**

**Page 6: A Prayer for
the Feast of the Holy Trinity**

The AMSSA Executive warmly invites staff and two students to the 12th Biennial AMSSA Conference; to honour the beginnings of our Mercy story, to celebrate our growth and unity, and be challenged to revitalise Mercy for the future.

We welcome a contribution from your school for next term's newsletter. Ask your development officer to send AMSSA one or two photos of images of Mercy and/or Catherine McAuley in your school, and add a few words of explanation if you wish. Email these to amssa@mercy.org.au. (Deadline Friday 3 August).

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

AMSSA subsidies in the conference 'off-year'

The AMSSA executive will be putting a proposal to the next Biennial General Meeting about events in the 'off-year' between AMSSA conferences.

You will remember that in 2006 the Sydney Mercy schools hosted a two-day Pastoral Conference for Deputy Principals and Religious Education Co-ordinators. In 2008 many of the member schools and colleges participated in the Day for Young Mercy Leaders, again in Sydney because it was the venue for World Youth Day 2008.

The Executive will be proposing that we offer to subsidise an event which a school or group of schools want/s to hold in your region. It may be for a particular group of staff (for example REC's), or for student leaders.

Any event would be held on behalf of AMSSA and would be open to all the AMSSA member schools and colleges.

350 hand-made yellow roses -

a labour of love and devotion

From Sue Luxton, Media and Marketing Officer St Patrick's College Townsville



At St Patrick's College Townsville, Mercy Day brings both a celebration of the life of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin and an acknowledgment of the century of Mercy tradition which is the cornerstone of the College itself.

Although the celebration is some months away, Sr Catherine Cuddihy rsm has already commenced her annual task of creating some 350 yellow roses – one for each student and staff member of St Patrick's, which are presented individually by the sisters during the Mercy Day Mass.

The roses, reminiscent of the special yellow rose which has been created in Catherine McAuley's honour, symbolise her graciousness in being a bearer of God's mercy to those around her. Before the roses are presented, they are set in baskets around the focal point of the Mass because, in clusters, they represent the groups of Sisters of Mercy around the world.



When the roses are presented, we, as the members of the College community are reminded that, every day, we should speak and act in a way which reflects a spirit of dignity and respect for others; listen with our hearts as well as our ears, and open our hearts to all who need understanding, encouragement and support.



As the Sisters of Mercy have devoted their lives to educating and guiding young women of North Queensland in their role as leaders of the future, the symbol of the yellow rose of Catherine McAuley is a reminder of the tradition of honour, dignity and mercy that young women of St Patrick's will carry forward in their lives.



Mercy iconography at Sacred Heart College Geelong

From Allan Ansell, Head of Religion / College Chaplain, Sacred Heart College

The Celtic cross which stands sentinel at the entrance to Sacred Heart College, Geelong, was crafted by artist in residence Ms Chris Sage and artisan Mr Scott Ballan. Both were aided by Mr Peter Penn. It was a College 150th Anniversary project and has shown no sign of weathering in the years since. The Celtic cross ties the College community very directly and intimately to our Irish heritage and also to the Venerable Catherine McAuley's spirituality, described by Sr Janet Ruffing rsm as a 'spirituality of the Cross'. It was special gift to our College and will speak to future generations of our Mercy identity.



This chalkware statue of the Venerable Catherine McAuley has stood in or near the chapel at Sacred Heart College, Geelong, for nearly 100 years. It was produced by the Mattei Brothers who had a factory in Fitzroy and, though producing secular works, specialised in religious figures. The mould for this particular statue was listed in the Pellegrini Brothers' catalogue of 1890 and is believed to have originally come from Ireland. It is still in the hands of a master sculptor in Melbourne.

We don't really know what Catherine looked like so can't vouch for the statue's accuracy but the pose and facial expression suggest practicality, compassion and resolve and these characteristics are most certainly accurate of Catherine.

Mercy iconography at Sacred Heart College Geelong...



This relief, depicting a Mercy Sister and two girls, adorns the entrance to the North Wing. This part of Sacred Heart College, Geelong, was started in 1871, several years after the South Wing. The artist is unknown. The work depicts a Sister holding firmly onto the child in her charge. Both Sister and the girl have a gaze fixed on the future; a future for the child guaranteed by the Mercys. The second girl is approaching Sister for help and brings to mind the passage from Luke where the mere touch of Jesus' garment by the struggling woman is enough to ease her suffering. Not Christ of course, but the healing power of the holy benefitted many whose lives were touched by Mercy. The relief speaks of Mercy 'universals' such as availability, determination, hope, connectedness, inclusiveness, love, commitment and of course Jesus.



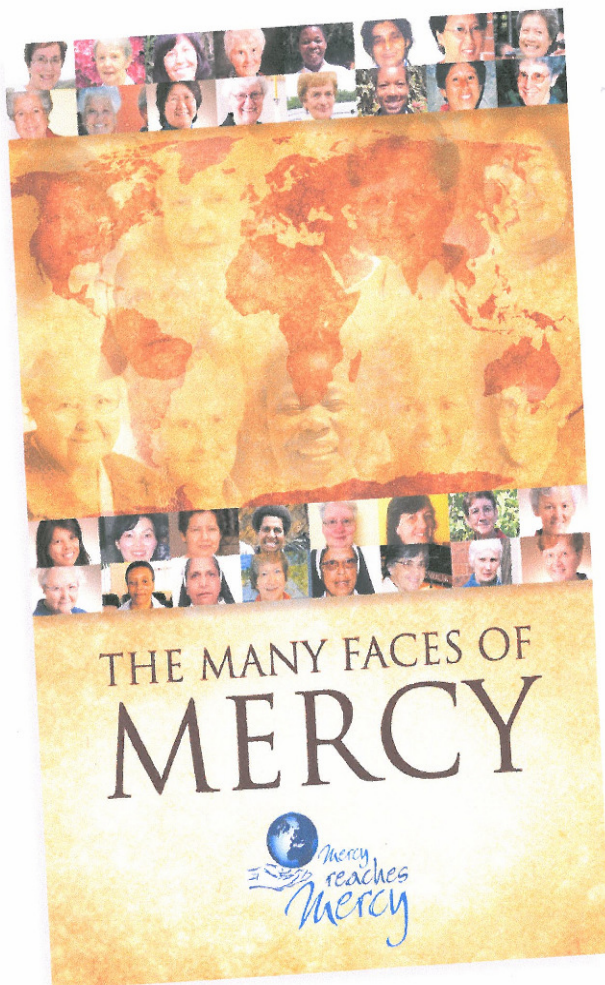
The Many Faces of Mercy

The Many Faces of Mercy is a newly published booklet about the Mercy Community – women who minister to bring about a better world. The booklet complements an earlier work, *Where in the World Are My Sisters?* by addressing from where in the world do my Sisters come?

The cost is \$3 plus postage and the proceeds from the sale of the booklet will go towards providing scholarships for children in the developing world.

The flyer is linked to this item.

For further information or to order copies contact [Deirdre Mullanun rsm](mailto:Deirdre.Mullanun@rsm) – deirdremullanun@aol.com



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Prayer for the Feast of the Holy Trinity – St Patrick's Breastplate

In 1889, C. F. Alexander penned this version at the request of the Dean of the Chapel Royal at Dublin Castle.

I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.

I bind this day to me for ever.
By power of faith, Christ's incarnation; his baptism in the Jordan river;
His death on cross for my salvation; his bursting from the spiced tomb;
His riding up the heavenly way; his coming at the day of doom;
I bind unto myself today.

I bind unto myself the power
Of the great love of the cherubim; the sweet 'well done' in judgment hour,
The service of the seraphim, confessors' faith, apostles' word,
The patriarchs' prayers, the prophets' scrolls, all good deeds done unto the Lord,
And purity of virgin souls.

I bind unto myself today
The virtues of the starlit heaven the glorious sun's life-giving ray,
The whiteness of the moon at even, the flashing of the lightning free,
The whirling wind's tempestuous shocks, the stable earth, the deep salt sea,
Around the old eternal rocks.

I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead, His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need. The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, His shield to ward, The word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.

Against the demon snares of sin,
The vice that gives temptation force, The natural lusts that war within,
The hostile men that mar my course; Or few or many, far or nigh,
In every place and in all hours, Against their fierce hostility,
I bind to me these holy powers.

Against all Satan's spells and wiles,
Against false words of heresy, against the knowledge that defiles,
Against the heart's idolatry, against the wizard's evil craft,
Against the death wound and the burning, the choking wave and poisoned shaft,
Protect me, Christ, till Thy returning.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong name of the Trinity; by invocation of the same.
The Three in One, and One in Three, of Whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word: praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.