



Mercedes College

Dear Year 12 Students,

Re: *Camino de Merced*

We are currently looking for expressions of interest for the *Camino de Merced* – an adaptation of the Camino Salvado pilgrimage to New Norcia.

The concept of pilgrimage has long been a significant practice of Christians seeking to deepen their faith and sense of the sacred. The physical and spiritual journey embarked upon is transformational in nature.

The *Camino de Merced* or *Path of Mercy* traces the path of Dom Rosendo Salvado from Perth (Subiaco) to New Norcia. The narrative of Salvado and New Norcia tethers with that of Ursula Frayne and the Sisters of Mercy, as both share the challenging experience of founding a religious mission in one of the most remote colonies in the world. The pilgrimage offered by the *Camino de Merced* will draw on the experiences of both these religious pioneers, as participant contemplate a path of faith, hope and mercy.

The *Camino de Merced* will have very limited places available. Due to the nature of the experience and accommodation restrictions, there will be a maximum of 20 Year 12 students selected.

Students must apply to participate and will be selected based on suitability. Student Participants must meet ALL prerequisites as outlined in the College Tours Policy. To be eligible, students must demonstrate that they have the physical and psychological capacity to endure the pilgrimage. Students should also express a desire for spiritual formation and growth.

The *Camino de Merced* is a six day walking pilgrimage covering over 120 Km: Departing **Thursday 4th June** from Mercedes College, arriving at New Norcia on Wednesday 10th June, followed by the Year 12 Retreat and returning with the Year 12 Cohort, by coach on Friday 12th June. Student Participants will be expected to contribute to and facilitate sessions on the Year 12 Retreat, where they will be able to share their pilgrimage experience with their peers.

The projected costs associated with the pilgrimage will be significantly subsidised by the College. The remaining cost to be incurred by participants is estimated to be less than \$200. There are a variety of grants available through Catholic institutions that may be applied for by participants to fund this cost in part or full.

Applications, including a written statement, must be completed by **Friday 27th February (Week 4 Term 1) and** submitted directly to the Religious Education office.

Applicants will be interviewed as part of the selection process. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday 6th March (Week 5 of Term 1).

Regards,

Mr Bull



Application Form

Due: Friday 27th February (Week 4, Term 1)

Please consider carefully your suitability for this experience before submission.

Name of Applicant: _____

Homeroom: _____

Please outline any known medical conditions, medicated or not, including injuries:

Participant Contact Details

Phone/Mobile: _____

School Email: _____@students.mercedes.wa.edu.au

Alternative Email: _____

Parent /Guardian Details

Parent Guardian Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

PLEASE TURN OVER

Written Statement

The experience of pilgrimage should be transformational. Your written statement is an opportunity to express what the *Camino de Merced* would mean to you, should you be selected to participate.

Your written statement should outline why you wish to be considered to take part in the *Camino de Merced*. Your statement should be approximately **500 words** in length and address the following four questions:

- **What benefit you hope to gain from the experience?**
- **How will the pilgrimage contribute to your spiritual/faith formation?**
- **How will you contribute to the experience of the group?**
- **How will the experience deepen your appreciation and understanding of the Mercy story and tradition of which you are already a part?**

Your Written Statement may be neatly hand written or typed.

PLEASE ATACH YOUR WRITTEN STATEMENT TO THIS APPLICATION

Details of what to include in your personal statement are on the reverse of this page.

**Applications must be submitted to the
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
(via Mr Bull or Ms Lendich) by:**

Friday 27th February (Week 4, Term 1)

Late applications will not be considered.