



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

April 2024



Reflection: Mercy International Association's Opening Doors Project

by Margaret Bounader, MMC Trustee Director

As many of our colleagues prepare for their Pilgrimage to Dublin and Baggot Street, I wanted to share with you some information about the Opening Doors Project and Mercy International Association (MIA). The Opening Doors project has been established by the MIA Board to explore the future of MIA.

In November last year, Georgina Smith, Chair Mercy Education and I attended a meeting in Baggot Street with the Board of MIA, the Executive Team and representatives from various Mercy organisations from around the world.

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Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC)



Online Certificate Program in Mercy Spirituality

Join the Georgian Court University's Online Certificate in Mercy Spirituality program, a unique academic and spiritual journey toward clarity and depth as we embrace Mercy.

The course features five, 10-week courses and three online retreats, and combines formal academic coursework, spiritual reflection, and thoughtful dialogue with people from around the world. Applications close 3 September 2024.

[View the CGU Program flyer](#)

New resources for ongoing formation

We are pleased to let you know that new resources for ongoing formation are now available on the MMC website under the [Formation tab](#).

In her 2023 MMC Conference Keynote Address, Elizabeth (Liz) Dowling RSM, explored each of the five MMC Values – Compassion, Hope, Hospitality, Justice and Respect. There is a short videoclip for each of our five Values and a Resource Guide with some suggestions for using the material. In conjunction with the Values leaflets, the videoclips can be used as a resource for reflection and conversation at a Board or Senior Executive meeting, with groups of staff or for personal reflection. For further information please contact [Annette Schneider RSM, MMC Formation Coordinator](#).

Mercy Education



Demand for iGEN Program soars

The Intergenerational Program (iGEN), is a partnership between Mercy Health, Australian Catholic University and Catherine McAuley College in Bendigo, which pairs College students with local residents at both Mercy Health Bethlehem and Mercy Health's senior living community, Golden Rise Bendigo.

More than 220 students have applied to take part in the 2024 program, a 26 per cent increase on last year's numbers.

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Farewell to Christopher Houlihan

At the end of April 2024, we farewell Christopher Houlihan as the Chief Executive Officer of Mercy Education Ltd. Christopher has been the inaugural Chief Executive of MEL and has made a wonderful contribution to Mercy Education, the MEL schools and to Catholic Education more broadly.

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Mercy Health



Susan Pascoe AM accepts Honorary Doctorate from ACU

On 15 April, Prominent Australian governance and Church leader Susan Pascoe AM accepted an Honorary Doctorate from Australian Catholic University (ACU). The honorary degree was conferred in recognition of Ms Pascoe's years of service in Australia and overseas in the fields of education, public administration, charity, religion, and community.

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Mercy Community Services

McAuley's Women supporting Women event

On 19 April McAuley held their 2024 Women Supporting Women event. Over 250 people enjoyed the luncheon at Zinc, a restaurant in Federation Square, Melbourne. The event was a wonderful opportunity to see old friends and welcome new ones and to hear an update on McAuley's work on Safe at Home - working towards a future where women and children can remain safely in their homes.





Regina Coeli homelessness and community

On April 2, 1986, Sr Judy Davey spent the first night at a building called 'Regina Coeli' in North Melbourne. This year, marks the 38th anniversary of Regina Coeli opening its doors to women who were homeless, dealing with mental illness or family violence.

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Save the date

14-15 October 2024

2024 Mercy Ministry Companions Conference

Conference 2024
Theme: Companions at the Margins
Monday 14 - Tuesday 15 October
Catholic Leadership Centre
East Melbourne



Please share this Mercy Ministry Companions Newsletter with your colleagues and [opt-in for further communications.](#)



Mercy Ministry Companions acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First Australians.

Our National Office is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, and our Ministries operate across the country and across a range of other indigenous lands and clans.

We acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across this land.

We respectfully recognise Elders both past and present.

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