

Mercy Leadership: Empowering Middle Leaders

Ongoing formation in leadership for mission 2026 Program

PROGRAM AIMS

Underpinned by adult learning principles, the program provides an opportunity for middle leaders within MMC to engage in ongoing formation within a cross-ministry context.

Through their engagement in the four (4) parts of the program, it is hoped that participants will:

- Be enriched personally, professionally and spiritually
- Develop a sense of belonging to MMC and of their contribution to its Vision, Mission and Values-enlivened ministry of service
- Enhance their appreciation of the Mercy context and heritage in shaping their leadership
- Grow in appreciation of the richness which sacred texts bring to their leadership role
- Deepen their understanding of values integration as key to their role as a leader
- Gain some understanding of a Ministerial Public Juridic Person (MPJP) within the Australian Church
- Increase their understanding of the role of middle leaders in shaping organizational culture
- Become more confident in exercising their role as middle leaders within MMC
- Contribute to relationship-building within an MMC cross-ministry 'community of practice'
- Commit to ongoing leadership formation as key to their ministry of leadership

RESOURCE PERSONS

Annette Schneider rsm, Formation Coordinator for MMC, will coordinate the Program, assisted by experienced facilitators and presenters.

PROCESSES

Formative processes will include:

- opportunities for personal reflection and prayer
- small and large group conversation and interaction
- input and reflection on middle leadership from a range of lenses and sources (e.g. presentations, articles, videoclips, Case Studies)
- sharing stories
- sharing meals and 'unprogrammed' leisure time
- Ongoing evaluation will also be incorporated into the Program.

PARTICIPANTS

While 'Middle Leaders' have a range of titles within our ministries, participants will likely include those engaged in the following types of roles:

- Middle Managers
- Team Leaders or Coordinators
- Heads of Departments
- Nurse Unit Managers
- Finance Lead
- Pastoral Leaders
- Care Managers
- Volunteer Coordinators
- Learning Area/Curriculum Coordinators
- Year Level/House Heads

CONTENTS

The proposed content explores aspects of personal and professional formation for leadership including:

1. Personal experience of middle leadership and key aspects of this leadership role
2. Transition from seeing the role as 'job' to 'career' to 'calling' as leaders in a ministry of MMC
3. The mission or purpose, vision and values of MMC as a Ministerial Public Juridic Person within the Catholic Church in Australia
4. Catholic Social Teaching and its relevance to contemporary leadership for mission
5. Catherine McAuley's response to the Gospel and mission of Jesus and her legacy to middle leaders, with insights drawn from our Wisdom tradition
6. The values-based underpinning of Mercy Leadership
7. Middle Leaders as shapers of organizational culture
8. The meaning, nature and importance of initial and ongoing formation for leadership in a faith-based ministry
9. Building resilience and courage as a middle leader
10. The contribution of reflective practice to leadership development
11. Identification of a small project of relevance as a middle leader which can be undertaken during the Program and shared as part of a 'community of practice'
12. Identification of future topics for in person and/or online ongoing formation offerings for middle leaders

FORMAT

The Program has four (4) components in which each participant will participate:

Part 1

2-day residential stay:

Group 1: February 18-20 at Santa Casa, Queenscliff, Victoria (up to 16 participants) and

Group 2: March 16-18, at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney (up to 25 participants)

Part 2

2.5 hours online session 'Embedding Works of Mercy and core Values in our Middle Leadership'; (will also include sharing on the progress of the Project):

Group 1: Monday 23 March, 11:00am-1:30pm (AEST)

Group 2: Thursday 30 April, 11:00am-1:30pm (AEST)

Part 3

2.5 hours online session 'Understanding Self & Others: Resilient & Courageous Leadership'; (will also include sharing on the status of the Project):

Group 1: April 27, 11:00am-1:30pm (AEST)

Group 2: May 25, 11:00am-1:30pm (AEST)

Part 4

1 day face-to-face gathering of participants to explore ways of continuing this 'community of practice'. The day would also include opportunities for ongoing leadership formation

Group 1: May 21, Melbourne, 9:30am-4:00pm at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne

Group 2: June 18, Melbourne, 9:30am-4:00pm at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne

- ministry site visits will be arranged for the following day, Friday, given sufficient interest



FUNDING

Ministries will meet the travel and accommodation costs of their participants.

MMC will meet the Program costs - facilitators, speakers, catering, resources and venue hire.

Potential accreditation

The program "Mercy Leadership: Empowering Middle Leaders" will be certified as an approved ongoing formation Program within MMC.

Application will be made within relevant external agencies, where possible, for accreditation of the Program "Mercy Leadership: Empowering Middle Leaders."

Nominations from Ministries will be due December 2026.

For further information please check our website

www.mercyministrycompanions.org.au

or email

ministries@mercymistrycompanions.org.au