



MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

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For reference in this text, the designation “rsm” refers to the Religious Sisters of Mercy and is the suffix that appears following the name of a Sister of Mercy. The designation “FMDM” refers to the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood and is the suffix that appears following the name of a Sister of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood.

MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Pat McDermott rsm, President

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Berneice Loch rsm, Institute Leader

Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia & PNG

Katrina Fabish rsm, Congregational Leader

Sisters of Mercy New Zealand (Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa)

Margaret Casey rsm, Congregational Leader

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Ireland

Marian Ladrera rsm, Superior General

Religious Sisters of Mercy (Philippines)

Elizabeth Davis rsm, Congregational Leader

Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland

Colette Cronin rsm, Congregational Leader

The Institute of Our Lady of Mercy (UK)

Dolores Magee rsm, Federation President

The Federation of the Sisters of Mercy (UK)

Philomena Bowers rsm, Congregational Leader

Sisters of Mercy of the Union of Great Britain

Catherine Reuter rsm, Congregational Leader

Sisters of Mercy Brisbane Congregation

Loreto Conroy rsm, Congregational Leader

Sisters of Mercy North Sydney Congregation

Catherine Ryan rsm, Congregational Leader (*Resigned November 2016*)

Sisters of Mercy Parramatta Congregation

Mary-Louise Petro rsm, Congregational Leader (*Appointed November 2016*)

Sisters of Mercy Parramatta Congregation

TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY & DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD

Denise Fox rsm (NZ), Chair

Patricia McDermott rsm (US)

Peter Burnett (UK)

Maura Hyland (IRE) (*Resigned 16 May 2016*)

Ron Ashworth (US)

James Peppiatt-Combes (US) (*Resigned 16 May 2016*)

Colette Cronin rsm (UK)

Margaret Casey rsm (IRE)

Scholasticah Nganda rsm (IRE)

Kevin Hoy (IRE) (*Appointed 16 May 2016*)

Mary Moorhead (IRE) (*Appointed 16 May 2016*)

COMPANY SECRETARY

Mary Reynolds rsm

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCE & FUNDING

Ron Ashworth, Chair

Peter Burnett
Colette Cronin rsm
Kevin Hoy
Mary Reynolds rsm
Margaret Scroope rsm

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

Kevin Hoy
Mary Moorhead

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Executive Director

Assistant Director, Heritage & Spirituality
Assistant Director, Global Action
Assistant Director, Finance & Administration

Mary Reynolds rsm

Mary Kay Dobrovolny rsm
Denise Boyle FMDM
Margaret Scroope rsm

REGISTERED OFFICE

Mercy International Association
11 Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2

BUSINESS ADDRESS

Mercy International Centre
64A Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Robert J. Kidney & Co
11 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

LEGAL ADVISERS

Mason Hayes + Curran
South Bank House
Barrow Street
Dublin 4

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

Bank of Ireland,
Baggot Street,
Dublin 2

FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS

Goodbody
Ballsbridge Park,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4

COMPANY REGISTERED NUMBER

194263

CHARITY REGISTERED NUMBER

2002547

CHY NUMBER

10078

PREFACE

Jubilee Year of Mercy



2016 was an eventful and busy year for Mercy International Association. Being the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy gave a particular focus and impetus to our work. Among the highlights were the roll-out of the Mercy International Reflection Process (MIRP) which afforded the Mercy family the opportunity to discern globally a shared response to 'the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor'. Of great significance also was the celebration of the various ministries of Mercy around the world through the presentation of a bird's eye view of these ministries in the *Stations of Mercy*, uploaded to our website. The pilgrimage to Rome by a representative group of the Mercy Family for the Church's recognition

of all those who are inspired by the charisma of Mercy was an unforgettable experience for the pilgrims who participated. The usual programmes for Vowed members, Associates, Partners in Mercy and Youth incorporated a special emphasis on the messages of the Jubilee year. Mercy International Centre had the privilege of being designated as an official pilgrimage site to a Door of Mercy, thus attracting a greatly increased numbers of visitors and pilgrims.

The Global Justice programme had many highlights also. There was action to promote the Sustainable Development Goals - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development- on various fronts: local, national and international. *Digging at Our Conscience* - a resource for those concerned about the impact of mining on peoples and the planet was launched. There were several lobbying and advocacy activities to oppose human trafficking. A powerful series of videos, giving voice to women who had been trafficked, was launched on the Mercy World website for the 16 Days of Activism for Non-Violence Against Women. The effort to find ways of addressing forced migration continued. Networking with grass roots in an effort to

link the local and the global remained a central part of the work. One of the very poignant aspects of this was when Mercy Global Action stood in solidarity with the people of Honduras to demand change and that their voices be heard when Berta Cáceras, the environmentalist and indigenous rights activist, was assassinated.

The Communications Programme provided invaluable support to all the programmes by providing resources and ensuring interconnection. Among the very valuable resources provided were *Voices*, a set of video interviews with 14 scholars and other experts from various disciplines on the theme of 'the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor' and a set of 15 'Reading for Mercy' on the same theme. Several wonderful resources were developed to highlight global events such as the Season of Creation and the Care for Creation Month, the establishment of the 8th Work of Mercy by Pope Francis, COP 21- the Sustainable Innovation Forum 2016 and the 1st Anniversary of the publication of 'Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home". A further highlight of the Communications Programme was the live streaming of Mercy Day celebrations around the Mercy world in the very special year of the Jubilee Year of Mercy and the Remembrance Day celebrations on the 175th anniversary of the death of Catherine McAuley.

A great cause for celebration was that the *Advancing Mercy Mission Programme* completed the first phase of the Fundraising Campaign, ensuring the future of the Endowment Fund and launched the 2nd phase in an effort to build up a Programmatic and Capital Fund. The *Advancing Mercy Mission* campaign owes a great debt of gratitude to our donors whom we now consider co-workers with us in promoting the vision of Mercy through the gifts of their time, talent and treasure.

A special word of thanks goes to the Members and Board of MIA for their breath of vision, their commitment to good governance and their unstinting support. In 2016 we farewelled two of our longstanding and very valued Board Directors: Maura Hyland and Jim Peppiatt- Combes. Delivering the mission of MIA could not be accomplished without the professionalism and commitment of Team and Staff and the support of our advisers and consultants. To all a very sincere thank you.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy was a hugely significant year for us that encouraged us in our commitment to nurture the flourishing of the Mercy charism and to work for a more just and compassionate world.



Mary Reynolds rsm
Executive Director
Mercy International Association

HISTORY OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (MIA)



In 1827, Catherine McAuley opened what was to be the first Mercy Convent in the world at 64A Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, on the boundary between those who were rich and poor in Dublin at that time. She did this because of her desire to address poverty and suffering in 19th century Ireland. The mercy mission spread throughout the world with daring women responding to the call of mercy in many countries. For over 150 years, this call moved the founding spirit of Catherine to all parts of the world to address the most significant needs of the people. From the beginning, the Convent of Mercy on Baggot Street has responded to the needs of the poor in Dublin under the care of the Sisters of Mercy, Dublin.

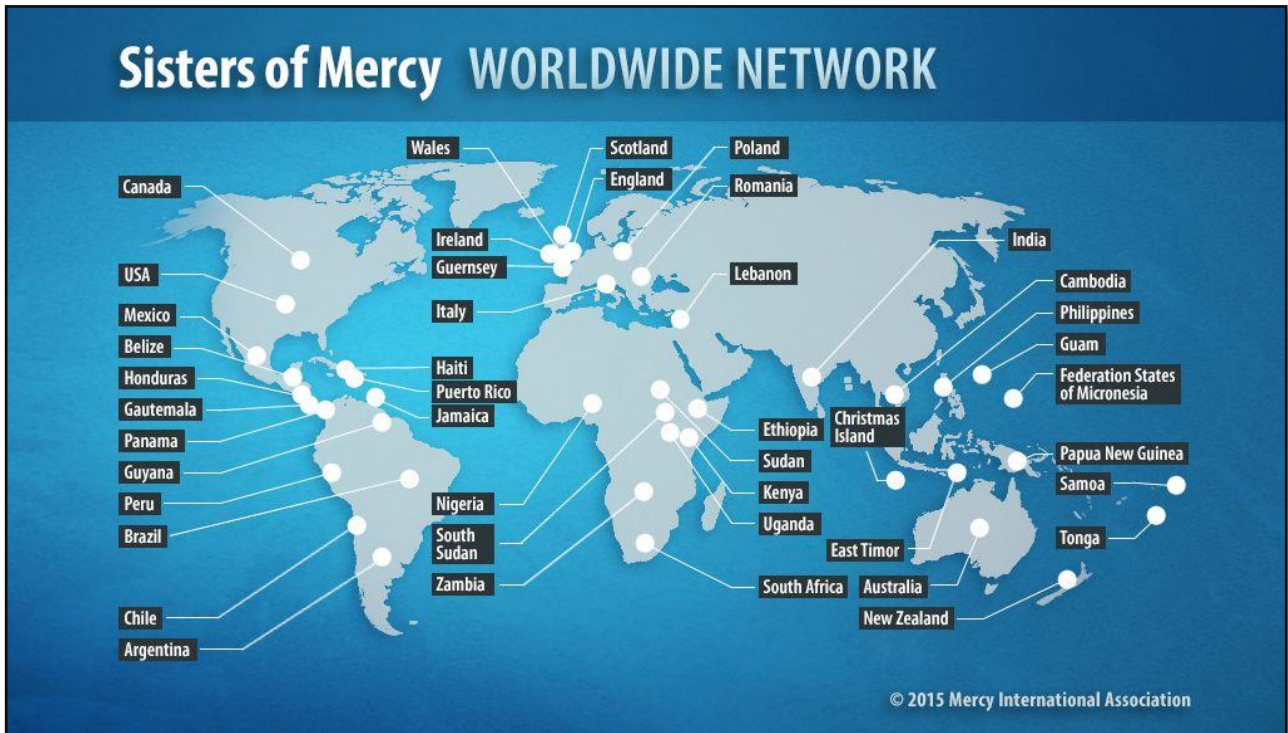
In the 1980s a decision was made that the original house founded by

Catherine should be held as a heritage house and Mercy home for the Sisters of Mercy, their Associates and Partners in Ministry worldwide. In order to hold it as such, Mercy International Association was formed in 1992. This was an association of the Mercy Congregations, Institutes and Federations around the world – Americas, Australia, England, Ireland, Newfoundland, New Zealand, and Philippines – with a Mercy presence in 40+ countries. In 1992, the memorandum and articles of association of Mercy International Association were signed, and ownership of 64 Lower Baggot Street was transferred from the Sisters of Mercy, Dublin to Mercy International Association.



Sisters from across the world celebrate the opening of Mercy International Centre at Baggot Street in 1994.

MERCY ON THE MAP



The Sisters of Mercy work in locations across the world in the areas of education, health and social services and ministries that further social, political, economic and spiritual wellbeing. These works keep alive the founding spirit of Catherine among the peoples of the world most in need of God's compassion and mercy.

ARGENTINA	GUYANA	PHILIPPINES
AUSTRALIA	HAITI	POLAND
BELIZE	HONDURAS	PUERTO RICO
BRAZIL	INDIA	ROMANIA
CAMBODIA	IRELAND	SAMOA
CANADA	ITALY	SCOTLAND
CHILE	JAMAICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CHRISTMAS ISLAND	KENYA	SOUTH SUDAN
EAST TIMOR	LEBANON	SUDAN
ENGLAND	MEXICO	TONGA
ETHIOPIA	AOTEAROA NEW	UGANDA
FEDERATION STATES OF	ZEALAND	UNITED STATES
MICRONESIA	NIGERIA	WALES
GUAM	PANAMA	ZAMBIA
GUATEMALA	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	
GUERNSEY	PERU	

GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



7,200
Sisters of Mercy

Mercy Sisters on pilgrimage in Rome

5,000
Associates



Mercy Associate Anne Reid with Áine Barrins rsm



Mercy Partners in Ministry from USA

250,000+
Partners in Ministry



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

STRUCTURE OF MIA

Mercy International Association (MIA) is a charity registered in the Republic of Ireland under the Charities Act 2009 with the Charities Regulatory Authority (Charity number 20025472). The Revenue Commissioners (the tax authority in Ireland) recognise MIA as charitable (CHY 10078). MIA was incorporated in Ireland on 12 October 1992 as a company limited by guarantee without a share capital (company number 194263). MIA operates under the Companies Act 2014 and its constitution consists of a Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association. The latest amendment was on 16 May 2016.

MIA was established to foster unity of mind and heart among Sisters of Mercy and to increase awareness and experience of their global interdependence; to facilitate collaboration among the Congregations, Institutes and Federations to meet the needs of today, to work for justice and to encourage and nurture the flourishing of the Mercy charism within the various cultures of the world.

MIA is separate and autonomous from other Mercy organizations around the world, but shares a spiritual bond with all Mercy organizations and operates from Mercy International Centre, 64A Lower Baggot St., Dublin 2, Ireland.

MEMBERS, TRUSTEES AND BOARD

The Members & Associate Members of MIA are the Canonical Leaders of the 12 Mercy Congregations, Institutes and Federations worldwide. The Members appoint a Board of Directors consisting of up to 9 members.

The Directors of the Board are Directors of the MIA Company and Trustees of the Charity. They are subject to retirement by rotation, having held office for three years consecutively. Normally a Director of the Board holds office for no longer than nine consecutive years. The Members meet annually to receive the annual report and audited financial statements of MIA. Other meetings take place as required.

The Board of Directors meets formally at least three times a year. All of these meetings take place over a residential weekend, to allow time for the Directors to develop a deeper understanding of the work of MIA worldwide. The Trustees/ Directors undergo an induction programme to ensure that collectively they have the overview necessary for the proper governance of the organisation; ongoing training is arranged as and when a need is identified.

2016 Attendance at Mercy International Association Board Meetings					
Director	Feb	May	Oct	Attended (out of 3)	% Attendance in 2016
1 Denise Fox rsm (Chair)	1	1	1	3	100%
2 Maura Hyland (Retired 15th May 2016)	0	0	N/A	0	0%
3 James Peppiatt-Combes (Retired 15th May 2016)	1	1	N/A	2	67%
4 Patricia McDermott rsm	1	1	1	3	100%
5 Peter Burnett	1	0	1	2	67%
6 Colette Cronin rsm	1	1	1	3	100%
7 Margaret Casey rsm	1	1	1	3	100%
8 Ron Ashworth	1	1	1	3	100%
9 Scholasticah Nganda rsm	1	1	1	3	100%
10 Mary Moorhead (Appointed 15th May 2016)	N/A	N/A	1	1	33%
11 Kevin Hoy (Appointed 15th May 2016)	N/A	N/A	1	1	33%
Mary Reynolds rsm (Company Secretary)	1	1	1	3	100%
Total Attendance: (9 Directors + 1 Company Secretary)	9 of 10	8 of 10	10 of 10	27 of 30	75% (average)

There are currently two subcommittees of the Board:

- Funding and Finance Committee** which is responsible for overseeing all financial and funding aspects of MIA.
- Good Governance Committee** which ensures MIA is compliant with all aspects of good governance.

MIA ORGANISATIONAL CHART 2016

MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Berneice Loch rsm (*President*), Patricia McDermott rsm, Katrina Fabish rsm, Margaret Casey rsm, Marian Ladrera rsm, Elizabeth Davis rsm, Colette Cronin rsm, Dolores Magee rsm, Philomena Bowers rsm, Catherine Reuter rsm, Loreto Conroy rsm, Catherine Ryan rsm [*Resigned November 2016*], Mary-Louise Petro rsm [*Appointed November 2016*]

MIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Denise Fox rsm (NZ) (*Chair*), Patricia McDermott rsm (US), Peter Burnett (UK), Maura Hyland (IRE) [*Resigned 16 May 2016*], Ron Ashworth (US), James Peppiatt-Combes (US) [*Resigned 16 May 2016*], Colette Cronin rsm (UK), Margaret Casey rsm (IRE), Scholasticah Nganda rsm (IRE), Kevin Hoy (IRE) [*Appointed 16 May 2016*], Mary Moorhead (IRE) [*Appointed 16 May 2016*]

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mary Reynolds rsm

**TEAM LEADER
HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY**
Mary Kay Dobrovolny rsm

**TEAM LEADER
GLOBAL ACTION**
Denise Boyle FMDM

**TEAM LEADER
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**
Margaret Scroope rsm

**GLOBAL ACTION
RESEARCHER**
Betty Lacey

MIA UN REPRESENTATIVE
Áine O Connor rsm
(*until July 2016*)

FACILITIES MANAGER
Kathy Higgins rsm

**WEB MANAGER
& E-NEWS EDITOR**
Anne Walsh

**GLOBAL ACTION
VOLUNTEER**
Catherine Gibbons rsm

**RESIDENT,
MERCY GLOBAL ACTION (UN)**
Angela Reed rsm

**DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR**
Sue Elliott rsm

**DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**
Ron Ashworth

**FINANCE
SUPPORT PERSON**
Bill Roche

**OFFICE
ADMINISTRATOR**
Sinéad Dunphy

SECRETARY
Margaret Roche

RECEPTIONIST
Madeleine O'Hanlon

**HOUSEKEEPER &
CLEANER**
Liz O'Sullivan

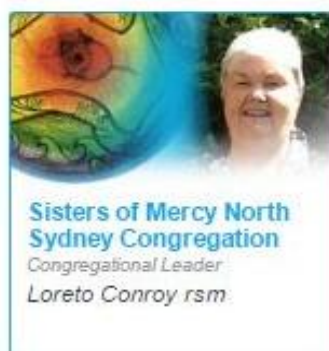
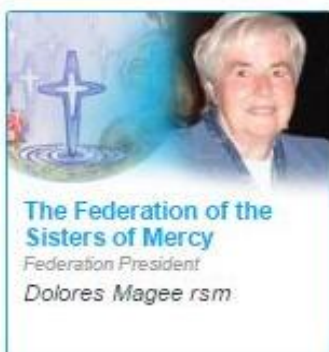
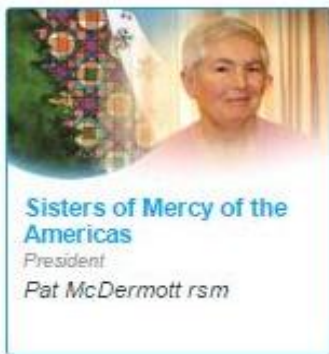
**CARETAKER &
CLEANER**
Joseph Tomina

**HOSPITALITY
VOLUNTEER**
Carita Irwin rsm

GOVERNANCE

The **Members, Associate Members and Board** are the custodians of MIA's vision, mission and values; they approve strategy, structure, annual plans and budgets and ensure the association is effective and accountable.

MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The business of the Company is managed by the **Board of Directors**.



Denise Fox rsm
Chair



Pat McDermott rsm (US)



Scholasticah Nganda rsm
(IRE)



Ron Ashworth (US)



Margaret Casey rsm (IRE)



Colette Cronin rsm (UK)



Peter Burnett (UK)



Kevin Hoy (IRE)
(Appointed 2016)



Mary Moorhead (IRE)
(Appointed 2016)

GOVERNANCE

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The **Members** appoint the **Executive Director of MIA**, who is supported by a team of three **Assistant Directors** in the areas of **Heritage & Spirituality; Global Action; Administration & Finance**.

The **Board of Directors** have delegated a range of day-to-day decision-making powers to the **Executive Director** and the **Executive Leadership Team**.



Mary Reynolds rsm
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mary Kay Dobrovolny rsm
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY



Denise Boyle FMDM
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
GLOBAL ACTION



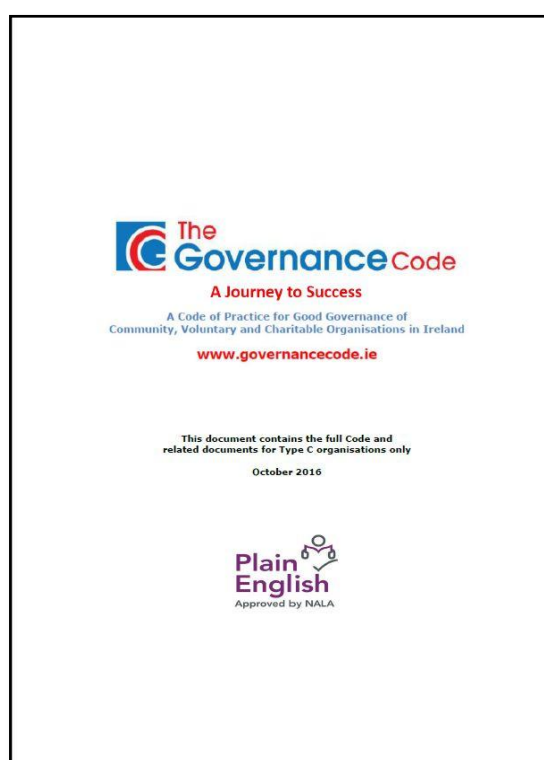
Margaret Scroope rsm
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

COMMITMENT TO BEST PRACTICE IN GOVERNANCE

MIA is committed to the standards contained within the Good Governance Code, a Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland. It aims to assist these organisations to develop their overall capacity in terms of how they run their organisation. The Code focuses particularly on the policies and procedures that are in place to ensure that the organisation is run responsibly. It clearly outlines the roles, duties and responsibilities of all those who sit on the board and management committees. It is based on principles, not rules, and compliance with it is voluntary.

It has five main principles:

- 1) *Leading the organisation*
- 2) *Exercising control over the organisation*
- 3) *Being transparent and accountable*
- 4) *Working effectively*
- 5) *Behaving with integrity*



Each of these has three 'sub-principles' indicating how the main principle will be achieved.

MIA has signed up to this code and reviews its procedures against it annually.

Underlying MIA's Good Governance Code is its Vision, Purpose, Mission Values, and Objectives.

I. VISION

GOD'S GRACIOUS *and* COMPASSIONATE MERCY *is the* WELLSPRING, *the* SOURCE of NEVER FAILING SUPPLY, *for all* THOSE WHO CHERISH *and* SEEK *to* LIVE OUT THIS GIFT of MERCY.



CATHERINE MCAULEY, FOUNDRRESS of the SISTERS of MERCY, USED HER INHERITANCE *in* SERVICE of the NEEDS of HER TIME. TODAY, SISTERS of MERCY, THROUGH MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION, USE THEIR RESOURCES *to* RESPOND *to* ISSUES of GLOBAL POVERTY DEMONSTRATED *in the* MASSIVE DISPLACEMENT of PERSONS WORLDWIDE.



The HOUSE BUILT *by* CATHERINE *to* CONNECT THOSE WHO WERE RICH *with* THOSE WHO WERE POOR FORMS PART of MERCY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, *a* PLACE of RICH HERITAGE *and* HOSPITALITY.

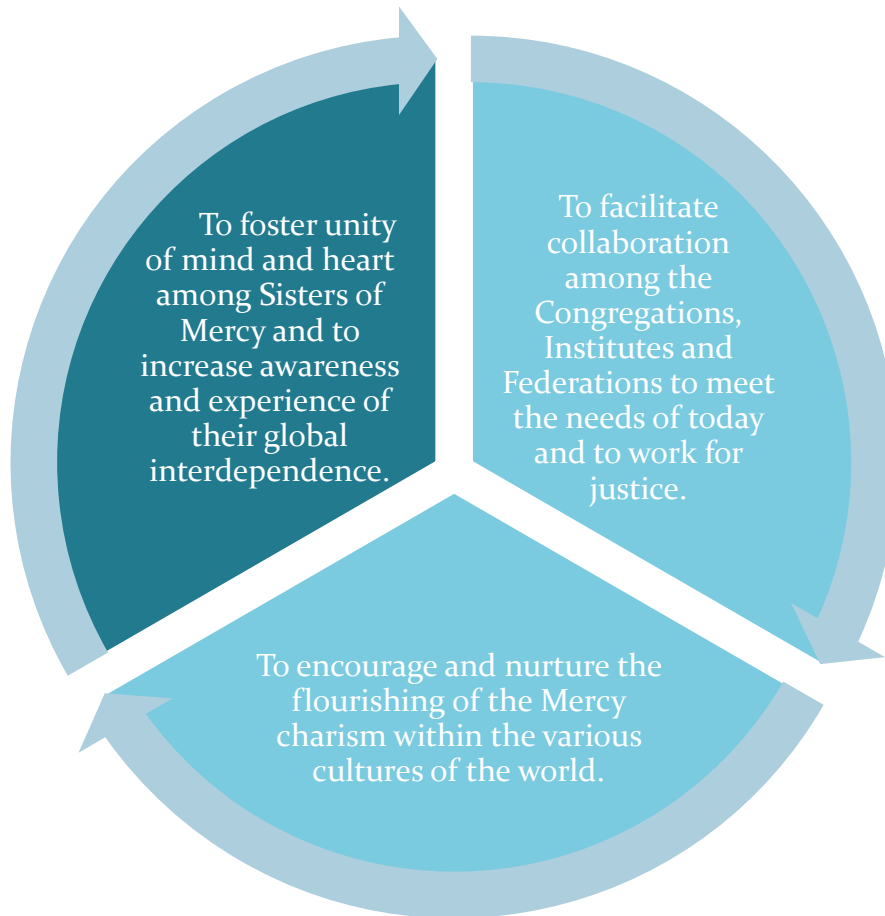


To INTEGRATE the ACTIVITIES of MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION *and* *in* SERVICE of the MISSION of MERCY TODAY, MERCY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE is EXPANDED *to* OFFER *a* DIVERSITY of PROGRAMMES, ENHANCED COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH EFFORTS, *and* APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATION *and* CONFERENCE FACILITIES.



This VISION KEEPS ALIVE the FOUNDING SPIRIT of CATHERINE AMONG PEOPLES of the WORLD MOST *in* NEED of GOD'S COMPASSION *and* MERCY.

II. MISSION



III. CORE VALUES



IV. OBJECTIVES

MIA enables networking for mission. It promotes the advancement of religion and the relief of poverty. The three main programmes through which MIA works are:

- 1) Heritage and Spirituality Programmes (page 31 - 51)
- 2) Global Action Programmes (page 52 - 64)
- 3) Mercy International Communication Programmes (page 65 - 80)



V. 1) STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Strategic Directions are informed by discerned responses to these critical questions:

- How can MIA enable Sisters of Mercy, their associates and colleagues in ministry to develop a global sense of identity and interconnection?
- How can we make MIC the iconic centre of the Mercy world and share its richness on a worldwide basis?
- In what ways can Mercy respond to issues of global poverty?
- How can we secure MIA's future in a situation where our funding is insecure?
- How can we grow an organisation that effectively and efficiently enacts the purpose and vision?

V.2) STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS: GOALS

MERCY EXPERIENCE

- To continue to enhance the potential of the Founding House of Mercy for all who seek knowledge of, and immersion in, the Mercy Story.
- To provide conference and accommodation facilities.

GLOBAL ACTION

- To develop and implement a programme of Global Action ensuring that Mercy programmes at grassroots level are incorporated into MIA international policy and advocacy at the UN.

COMMUNICATION

- To create a communications plan that enhances the living, telling and supporting of the Mercy story.

ADMINISTRATION

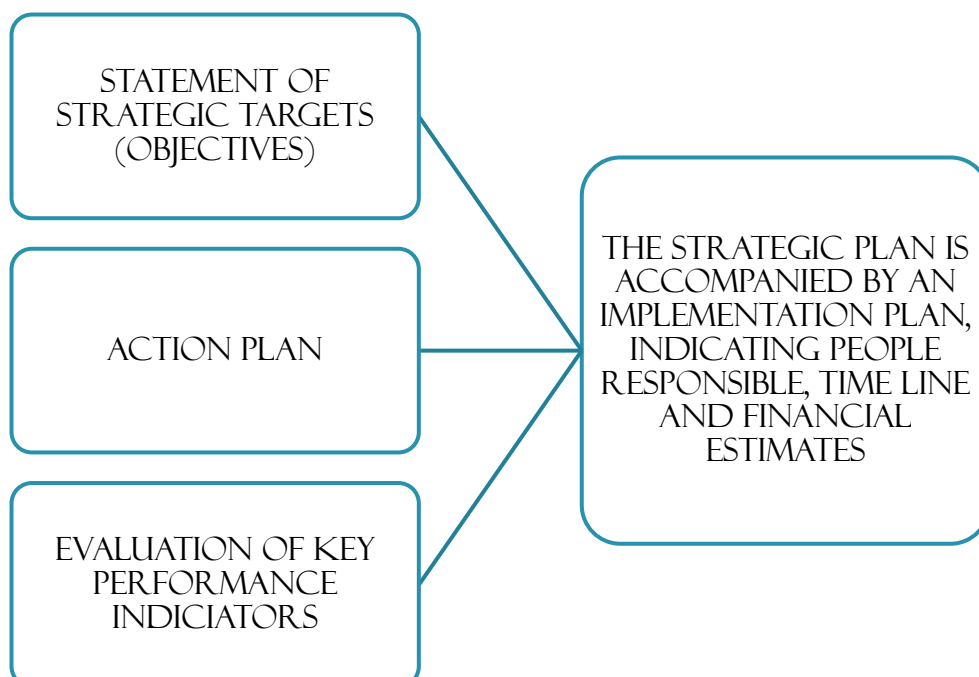
- To provide for the administration of Mercy International Centre.
- To administer the financial affairs of Mercy International Association.

NEW HORIZONS

- To ensure a stable structure that is capable of seeking new challenges in pursuit of a global mission of mercy.

V.3) STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION

Each Strategic Goal is implemented through the following process:



VI. STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan aims to implement the purpose, mission, values and objectives of MIA. It addresses 6 strategic directions:



Regarding each strategic direction, the plan outlines:

1. Goal
2. Strategic Target
3. Tactics
4. Key Performance Indicators
5. Implementation
6. Evaluation

The implementation of the plan is overseen by the Directors of the Board of MIA, who play an active part with the Executive Director and Assistant Directors in monitoring progress. The Executive Director and Assistant Directors prepare an annual Operations Plan and Budget for Board approval. Collectively – the Executive Director, Assistant Directors and Project Leaders – devise work programmes designed to achieve the annual Operations Plan.

Reviews of progress against the strategies and targets as outlined in the Strategic Plan are presented regularly to the Board. Participants at all events and courses are invited to complete evaluations, and this feedback is collated and reviewed. Feedback from

users of our web-based services is also invited. The Strategic Plan is reviewed every 3 years and is due for review in 2017.

VII. GOVERNANCE PRACTICES, RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

MIA has established a comprehensive risk management process, which seeks to ensure that designated people in the organisation manage and mitigate risks. This risk management process is an integral part of MIA's organisational governance system. Risk is regularly and thoroughly assessed at various levels in the organisation up to Board/ Trustee level.

OPERATIONAL

MIA's staff members and volunteers are fundamental to the organisation's success. MIA values the building of strong relationships with staff and volunteers. It implements performance reviews and promotes staff development training. The personal security of staff and the safety of beneficiaries of MIA programmes and services is a priority.

It is MIA's policy to safeguard all individuals who are involved in, or affected by, its work and to ensure that the behaviour of all those working with MIA meets the appropriate standards. MIA has developed comprehensive health and safety management policies to ensure those risks are appropriately managed. Policies are in place to protect children during the delivery of our services. MIA has had a Child Protection Policy in operation since 2010. Its latest review of the policy was in April 2015. It provides clear and detailed guidance on prevention of abuse, identification of abuse, reporting of issues and management and investigation of complaints. All staff is Garda vetted and have had in-service training. MIA follows the Policy, Principles and Guidance Document of the Congregation of Sisters of Mercy, Ireland and avails of the formal safeguarding structures of Mercy South Central Province. MIA has a Safeguarding Designated Officer on site in Mercy International Centre and publicly displays its Safeguarding Ethos/ Policy, which includes all relevant contact information.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

The principal risk and uncertainty facing MIA is Financial Stability. The principal financial challenge facing MIA is in the areas of fundraising and institutional funding. MIA is almost entirely dependent on the goodwill of its participant congregations and on identified donors. The fundraising environment remains very challenging. Increased competition for depleting congregational funds means MIA needs to identify and develop new sources of income in order to reduce the risk of significant income fluctuations. MIA continually reviews and assesses its investment strategy to reduce its exposure to fluctuations and risk in financial markets.

INFORMATION SECURITY

MIA is dependent on IT and communication systems for processing and storing its data. Procedures and policies are in place for data protection and password protection. Digitization of important manuscripts and artefacts has taken place and there is off-site back-up to computer files as well as ongoing professional support. A cyber insurance policy is under consideration.

REPUTATIONAL

MIA has evaluation mechanisms in place to obtain feedback from stakeholders which includes space for comments or complaints and there are appropriate response procedures to handle any complaints. MIA monitors the external environment in order to anticipate and minimise any potential reputational risks.

There is a Good Governance Committee in place which monitors the Organisation's compliance with the Good Governance Code and reviews the practices of the organisation against the recommended Board practices.

VIII. ACTIVITIES IN GOOD GOVERNANCE IN 2016

Some specific activities relating to the Good Governance Code were carried out in 2016.

- Staff handbook reviewed and staff in serviced on same. The staff handbook includes polices on Employment, Equality, Discipline & Grievance Procedures, Equal

Opportunities & Dignity at Work, policies on Information Technology internet and e-mail; Health & Safety in the Workplace.

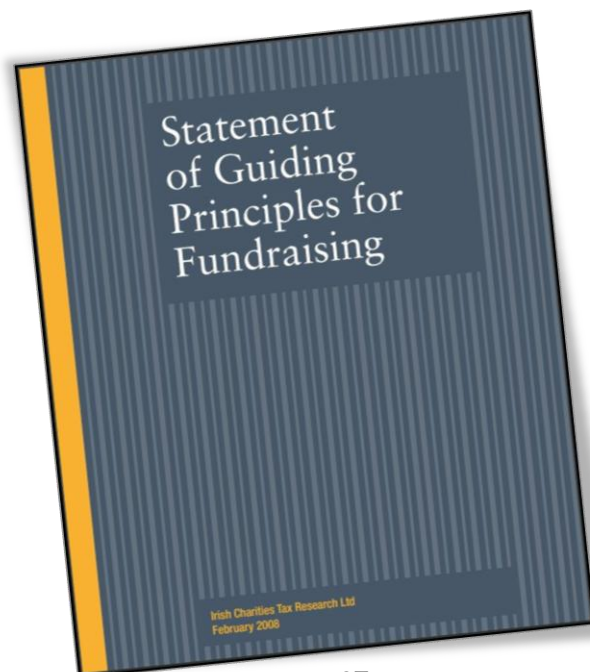
- Employee contracts and job descriptions reviewed with each staff member.
- The Health and Safety policy of MIA was reviewed.
- Annual Compliance Reports made to:
 - ✓ The Company Registration Office (following the AGM, May 2016).
 - ✓ The Charity Regulatory Authority (October 2016).
 - ✓ The Standards Commission on any lobbying carried out by MIA (quarterly, 2016).

In accordance with the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising, Mercy International Association adopted a Fundraising Code in February 2016.

In accordance with this Code, MIA;

- ✓ Is committed to complying with the *Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising* and has formally discussed and adopted the Statement at a meeting of the Board (February 2016).
- ✓ Confirms its commitment to the principles set out in the *Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising* by a statement to that effect in its **annual report** and on its website.
- ✓ Has a **Donor Charter** which is consistent with the *Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising*.
- ✓ Regularly monitors compliance with the *Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising* and compliance.
- ✓ Considers the *Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising* when planning all fundraising activity.

- ✓ Has a **policy** on working with third-party fundraisers.
- ✓ Provides **honest, open and transparent disclosure** when fundraising from the public.
- ✓ Has appointed a senior member of staff to be responsible for compliance with the *Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising*.
- ✓ Ensures that fundraising staff are provided with information and training on the *Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising* and its implementation.
- ✓ Has a **feedback and complaints procedure** consistent with the *Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising*.
- ✓ Prepares financial reports consistent with the requirements of the Charities Act 2009.
- ✓ Ensures that all donations are tracked and recorded and complies with data protection requirements.
- ✓ Is accessible to the public through a number of readily available contact options.



STAFF OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION





THE WORK WE DO

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY



GLOBAL ACTION



COMMUNICATIONS



ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE



A) HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

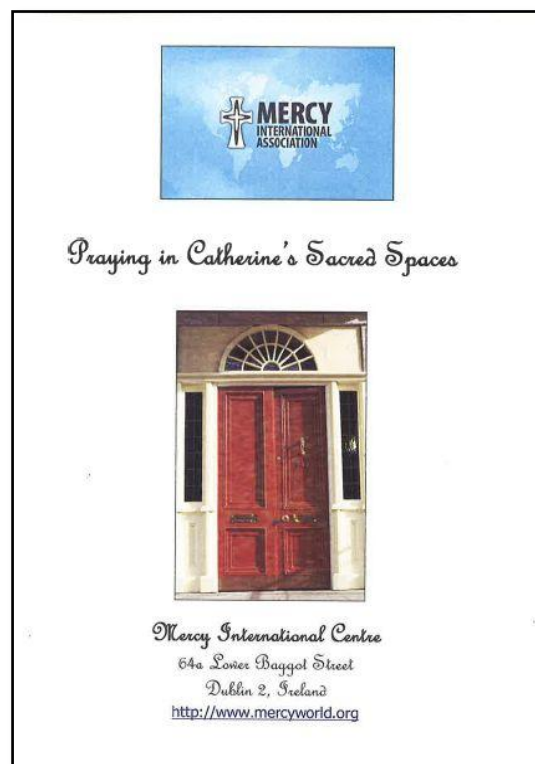
Our goal is to extend and enhance the potential of the founding house of Mercy for all who seek knowledge of and immersion in the Mercy Story. We aim to provide a wellspring of nourishment and formational experiences in Mercy heritage, spirituality, charism and ethos to people who wish to explore the significance of the Mercy story in their lives. Our ultimate aim is the advancement of the mission of Mercy.

As Mercy's demographics change and many Sisters retire from active duties, our lay Partners in Ministry are increasingly becoming Leaders of our Institutions. These Partners – individuals who serve Mercy in professional and voluntary roles – are also assuming greater responsibility for maintaining the Mercy Ethos. Through the Leadership Programme, we provide formation opportunities to these Partners, as well as to Mercy Students and Vowed Members, ensuring that core Mercy values continue to underpin Mercy Ministries.

The Mercy International Centre (MIC) lends a special resonance to the programme as Mercy's first foundation and a place of pilgrimage. As many participants report, this spiritual and historical significance enhances their experiences and learning outcomes.

In 2016, several programmes were offered which included;

- Sister & Associate Programmes
- Partners in Ministry Programmes
- Young Mercy Leader Programmes
- Extramural Programmes



2016 Programmes



Celebration of Foundation Day & Opening of the Door of Mercy at Baggot Street
 Sunday December 13th, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

Open to all in the Mercy family. Eucharistic Liturgy and reception following. No charge.



A Future Full of Hope
 Tuesday
 February 2nd
 7:30—9:00 p.m.

Presentation by Mary Reynolds rsm, Executive Director of Mercy International Association, and Prayer Service of Thanksgiving for the Closing of the Jubilee Year for Consecrated Life. No charge.



Prayer Vigil to 'Dry the Tears'
 Thursday May 5th
 6:00—7:30 p.m.

As Pope Francis gathers in Rome with those in need of consolation, attend a prayer service in the Mercy International Centre chapel. Reception following. No charge.

Mercy that is Twice Blessed: Given and Received—A Day for Caregivers
 Saturday, June 11th
 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.



This day programme is designed for caregivers, those in the healing ministries, and those who desire to nurture one's own spirit in the face of pain and suffering. Come be refreshed and renewed with a day tending to your body, mind and spirit.

Cost: €35, includes lunch

Useful Contacts

P: +353 1 661 8061
 E: bookings@mercyinternational.ie
 W: www.mercyworld.org



Mercy International Centre will be closed for Christmas Holidays
 24 Dec 2015 - 6 Jan 2016

Come Home to Catherine
 Sunday June 12th –
 Saturday June 18th
 Presenters:
 Judy Carle rsm
 & Anne Reid



This programme is an experience of being with Catherine at home in Baggot Street. It offers an opportunity to pray with Catherine in her places and spaces, and to walk in her footsteps through the city of Dublin reflecting on her life, ministry and relationship with God. There will be input and time to reflect on and reconnect with Catherine, the tender woman of mercy who continues to inspire and journey with us.

Cost: €570 (Residential)
 €390 (Non-residential)



Watering the Roots at the Wellspring of Mercy
 Sunday July 3rd –
 Saturday July 30th

This residential programme is designed for vowed Mercy women who are seeking refreshment and renewal. It offers participants the opportunity to take time out in an atmosphere of warmth, hospitality, and internationality in order to discern more clearly the invitation of the Spirit in how to live out the mission of Mercy in our church and world.

Weekly themes & presenters are:

July 3-8: Contemplating Religious Life in a Graced and Complex Context, with Kathleen McAlpin rsm

July 10-15: Explorations of Mercy in the Hebrew Scriptures, with Elizabeth Davis rsm

July 17-22: Catherine McAuley and Her Relevance for Today, with Brenda Dolphin rsm

July 24-30: Transformation through Theological Reflection, with Elaine Wainwright rsm

Spiritual Guide & Facilitator: Geraldine Collins rsm

Cost: €2200 (Residential)
 €1620 (Non-residential)
 Part-time participation is pro-rata



Pilgrimage of Young Mercy Leaders (University Students & Young Adults)
 Tuesday August 9th – Friday August 12th

University students and young adults will travel to Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland. These Mercy pilgrims will undertake their journey in the light of the story of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. Those who participate in this pilgrimage will emerge with a deeper appreciation of our Mercy tradition – past, present and future.

Cost: €250 (Non-Residential Only)

Come Home to Catherine
 Sunday August 21st –
 Saturday August 27th
 Presenters:
 Anne Reid & Mary Trainer rsm



See description for June programme.

Cost: €570 (Residential)
 €390 (Non-residential)



Mercy Leadership: Ethos Pilgrimage for Partners in Mercy
 Sunday September 25th –
 Saturday October 1st

Open to all in the Mercy family, this programme is designed for administrators, staff and board of trustee members of Mercy ministries and all who want to deepen their rootedness in the Mercy story: past, present and future. It draws on the inspiration of the founding women of Mercy as it engages Mercy mission and leadership as it is lived today.

Cost: €570 (Residential)
 €390 (Non-residential)

Commemoration of the Anniversary of Catherine's Death & Closing of the Doors of Mercy, Baggot St
 Sunday November 13th



Eucharistic Liturgy and Reception.

2016 Calendar

Additional Programmes & Reserved Dates

- Feb: Finance Committee & Board Meeting (26th – 28th)
- Mar: Jubilee for those inspired by the Charism of Mercy—Pre Rome Event (30th – 31st)
- Apr: Rome Event: Jubilee for those inspired by the Charism of Mercy (1st – 3rd)
- Post Rome Event: Aotearoa New Zealand Pilgrims (7th – 10th)
- ISMAMPNG Ethos Pilgrimage (10th – 16th)
- Primary School Principals and Board Members, Western Province Schools, Ireland (20th – 21st)
- ISMAMPNG Ethos Pilgrimage (24th – 30th)
- May: Finance Committee, Board Meeting & AGM (13th – 17th)
- Carlow University Ethos Pilgrimage (23rd – 25th)
- University of Detroit-Mercy, McAuley School of Nursing (26th)
- Aug: Carlow University Student Leaders Pilgrimage (3rd – 6th)
- Sep: Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage for ISMAPNG Associates (4th – 10th)
- Brisbane Congregation Ethos Pilgrimage (13th – 22nd)
- Mercy Day (24th)
- Oct: Mercy Health, St Louis (3rd – 7th)
- Finance Committee & Board Meeting (14th – 16th)
- Dec: Foundation Day (12th)

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

SISTERS & ASSOCIATES

PROGRAMMES 2016

I. PROGRAMMES FOR SISTERS AND MERCY ASSOCIATES

- (a) **Renewal Programme, “Wellspring: Watering the Roots”**: This month-long programme offered participants the opportunity to discern more clearly how to live out the mission of Mercy in church and world.
- (b) **“Come Home to Catherine” Programmes**: These week-long programmes offered the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley in the house she established and in the city of Dublin. Participants were invited to reflect on her life, ministry and relationship with God in order to draw inspiration for their own lives of Mercy.

In total **112 members** attended these programmes.



Participants in the “Wellspring: Watering the Roots” programme (2016)

Photo by Mary Ann Lennon rsm

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

SISTERS & ASSOCIATES

PROGRAMMES 2016

Selected comments from participants

"I knew about Catherine but didn't know her until this week. I had read books but here I walked in her footsteps, I met her."

"The programme offered me, as participant, the utmost challenge to my whole way of life and being. I go home enhanced by the spiritual, theological and cosmological influences offered during this month."

"[The week was] far beyond what I had expected or hoped for! It opened the 'embers' and lit a fire of new understanding and hope."

"I will forever remember my first experience of being in Catherine's House with very precious memories to hold, treasure and share when I leave this hallowed place."

"The unfolding and unwrapping of Catherine's story over these days in this place where it all emerged was an amazing journey. We have been enlightened, encouraged, revitalized, challenged and loved in a very special way. Each part of the process led beautifully into the next."

"Catherine McAuley is a wonderful Retreat Director! I have spent time here with her. I have felt Catherine. It has been life-changing. I will leave changed for the better."

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

SISTERS & ASSOCIATES
PROGRAMMES 2016



Renewal Programme: "Wellspring: Watering the Roots"



"Come Home to Catherine" Programme

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY PROGRAMMES 2016

2. PROGRAMMES FOR LAY PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Partners in Ministry are defined as those who serve Mercy in their professional roles and can include doctors, nurses and administrators from our medical facilities and teachers, professors and principals from our educational institutions. Last year, **917** participants, drawn from around the world, came to the Mercy International Centre to take part in these programmes. This was over 100% increase from 404 participants in 2015.

A special highlight was the establishment of the first *International Partners in Ministry* programme. Previously programme groups came from single locations e.g. Australia or U.S.A or United Kingdom or Ireland. The participants of the International group came from Philippines, U.S.A., Newfoundland, New Zealand, England, and Northern and Southern Ireland.

The Leadership Programme has three main objectives:

- a) DEVELOPING participants' leadership skills.
- b) INCREASING participants' awareness of Mercy's mission and identity.
- c) CONNECTING participants' with Mercy's networks.

By achieving these outcomes, we aim to ensure Mercy Leaders appreciate the founding values of their institutions and have the training and skills to uphold Mercy's ethos. The experience also offers the opportunity to connect and collaborate with others worldwide to leverage the collective strengths of Mercy worldwide.

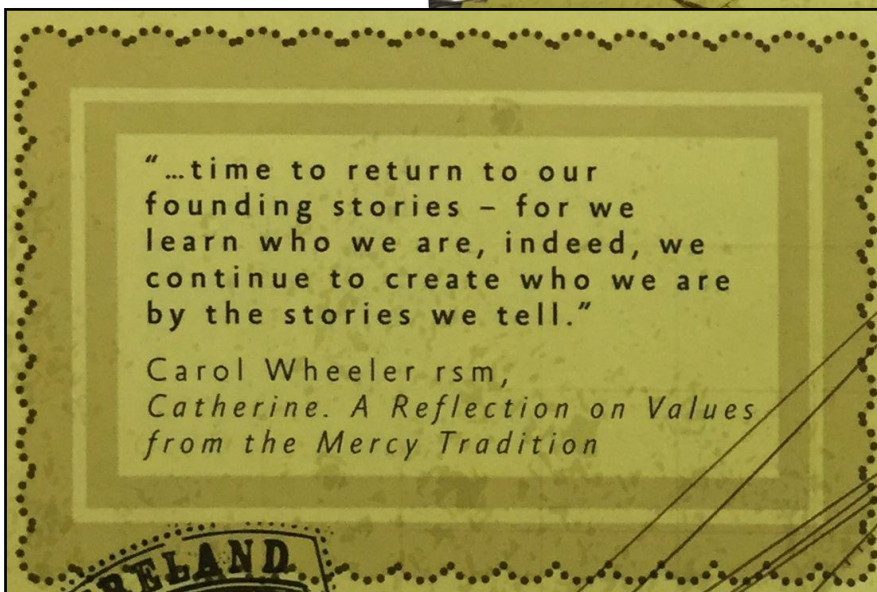
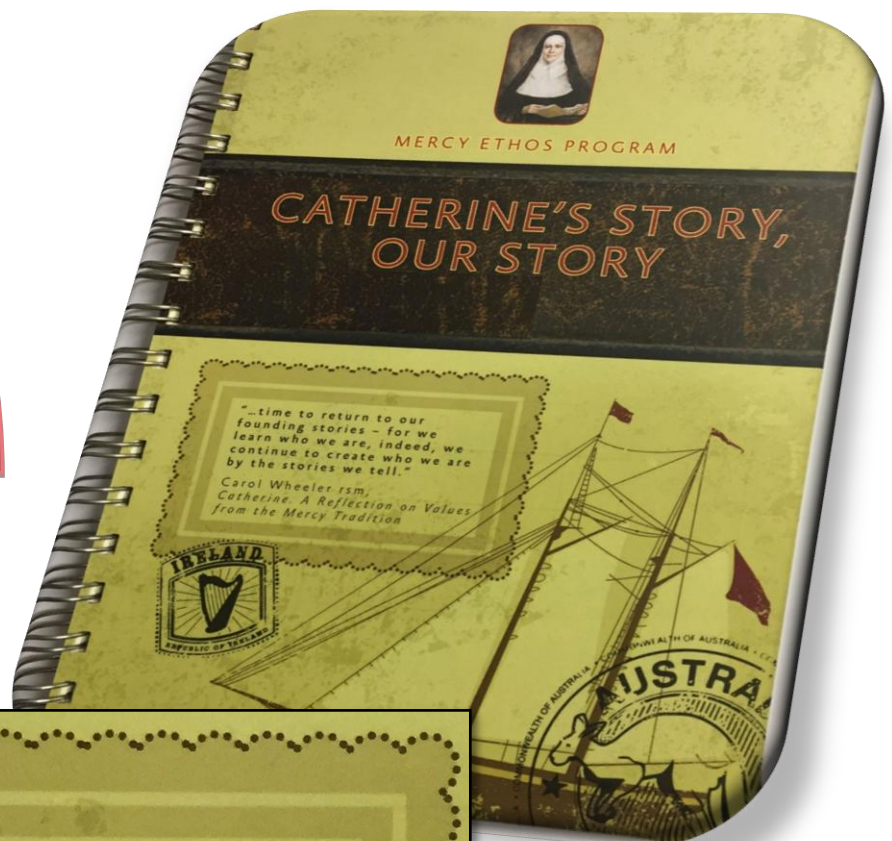
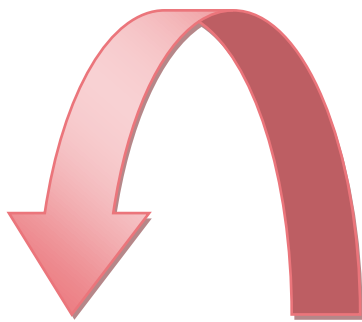
A flexible syllabus has been developed that can be scaled from a half-day course to a one-week immersion (the average length of a programme was three and a half days). The programmes were led by Mercy International's staff, assisted by external speakers and facilitators. During the programmes, participants were prepared to teach the curriculum in their home organisations.

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY PROGRAMMES 2016

By giving a new generation renewed appreciation of our collective heritage and teaching them key skills, the Leadership Programme has a profound effect on participants, their home organisations and, most importantly, the people they serve.

Our evaluation indicates that the programmes we offered broadened participants' perspectives and helped to create a common identity and mission.



HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY PROGRAMMES 2016

Selected comments from participants

“It’s hard to envision a modern, American, Jewish woman undertaking a Catholic-sponsored pilgrimage to Ireland, but that is exactly what I am doing...Interestingly, I found many connections between Mercy history and beliefs and my own. Comfort (to the ill and mourners), caring (for the physical and spiritual needs of others), and promotion of social justice were all religious elements that Catholicism and Judaism share.”

“Catherine, born into wealth, given an inheritance of a friend of her family, gave to us all she had in the form of Mercy, a tradition that is so simple and compelling that it applies to any time or place.”

“After twenty years in Mercy education I realise there is still so much of Mercy to know and learn, and the pilgrimage deepened, enriched and renewed my understandings through its humble, yet powerful invitation to experience Mercy.”

“I was inspired by my colleagues who shared their feelings, their insecurities and their desire to do all that they can to truly live the spirit and the intent of Mercy. The call for Mercy and Justice is one of the many things that remain with me. The call to be more aware of what it means to be a Person of Mercy, to embrace ongoing formation as an essential and ongoing journey, and to remember that it is only by looking deep within that one can change the world.”

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

PROGRAMMES 2016



McDarby Institute Pilgrimage, from Carlow University, USA



Mercy Leadership Programme, Sisters and Partners in Ministry from Australia



YOUNG MERCY LEADERS'
PILGRIMAGE 2016

3. PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG MERCY LEADERS

The *Annual Youth Pilgrimage* continues to be a very popular programme and between August 9th and 12th 2016, sixty-nine students participated in a pilgrimage at Mercy International Centre. This year it was the turn of college students and young adults to take part and to have an opportunity to experience together the riches of the Mercy story before returning to daily life, better equipped to be Leaders in their colleges and in the world.

They came from Carlow, Gwynedd Mercy, Misericordia, Salve Regina and Mount Mercy universities in the United States and from the Southern, Northern and South Central Provinces in Ireland. The theme of the 2016 pilgrimage was *Leadership in the Year of Mercy*. The programme included Key Note talks on Leadership themes and workshops on a variety of topics.

Over the four days each pilgrim got the opportunity to take part in six different workshops.

1. Ending Sex Trafficking and Realising Catherine's Vision in our World Today.
2. Global Justice in the Year of Mercy.
3. What is it you plan to do with your one, wild, wonderful life?
4. Mercy Volunteer Corps.
5. Mindfulness.
6. The Vision and Mission of Mercy.

On the final day, pilgrims worked on action plans for living out the call to be Mercy in their local colleges when they return home.

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

YOUNG MERCY LEADERS' PILGRIMAGE 2016

In a commissioning ceremony at the end of the pilgrimage, students and young adults pledged the following;



As a Young Mercy Leader, let Catherine's story fill my heart.

May the gift of Mercy fire me with courage to face and respond to the challenges I will meet in my life.

May I be united with other Young Mercy Leaders in a desire to welcome the diversity of persons and gifts in my community.

May I be inspired to support the Mission of Mercy in the wider world in whatever ways I can.

In this Year of Mercy and always, may I be blessed with an abiding sense of God's loving kindness.

In addition to the Young Mercy Leaders' Pilgrimage, several groups came from schools and colleges around the world to become immersed in the Mercy story and to draw inspiration from it to be a Mercy person in today's world.

In all, **768 young people** came from around the world to Mercy International Centre to attend programmes in 2016:

- 90 Primary Level
- 346 Secondary Level
- 332 Third Level & Young Adults

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

YOUNG MERCY LEADERS'

PILGRIMAGE 2016

Selected comments from participants

“The workshops brought to light the large number of works of mercy being carried out in the world today. Not only Sisters of Mercy, but young adults are devoting their lives to helping others. It made me realize how many kind, good people there are.... It also lifted me; inspiring me to model the leaders in the mercy community...I leave the conference today with a fire in my heart, looking to find ways that I can use my gifts and talents to repair our world in mercy.”

“I went outside to Catherine's grave. While I stood there, I gained a sense of peace and hope. It's almost like you can feel Catherine's presence there with you.”

“It has been great experiencing, this amazing trip as a group and spending so much time together. I feel as though we've grown very close as a group, and I'm looking forward to growing even closer at the Young Mercy Leaders' Pilgrimage.”

“It is one thing to read about Catherine and her journey, but to be in the house where all of these acts of Mercy and kindness were performed blows my mind. To walk where she walked and to see what she saw is a blessing within itself. She was one of the most selfless and humble humans to ever walk the planet. Her legacy lives on, and I am so proud to say that I am a Carlow Mercy Leader.”

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

YOUNG MERCY LEADERS'
PILGRIMAGE 2016



HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

EXTRAMURAL PROGRAMMES 2016

4. EXTRAMURAL PROGRAMMES

In addition to the programmes in-house, a number of extramural programmes were provided;

- 1) Pilgrimage to Rome
- 2) Mercy Formation in Australian Schools
- 3) Mercy Formation for Religious & Partners in Ministry

1) PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

A highlight of the Year of Mercy was a pilgrimage to Rome, organised by Mercy International Association and representatives of the Mercy family around the world. Thirty-nine Sisters, Associates and Partners in Mercy— *from Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Peru, Samoa, Tonga and United States of America* –participated.

The Mercy group were in Rome from Friday, 1 April until Tuesday, 5 April. On Saturday they walked to the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica, praying the Rosary and singing the *Suscipe* en route. Once inside the Basilica there were opportunities for adoration and reconciliation. That afternoon and early evening, along with tens of thousands of other pilgrims, the Mercy group attended testimonies and music and a prayer vigil at St. Peter's Square with Pope Francis present. On Sunday they were at the 10.30 am celebration of Mass with Pope Francis, where all those associated with the charism of Mercy were honoured.

On Monday, the final day, the pilgrims visited the Church of St. Pudenziana where the original painting of Our Lady of Mercy is held. In the 19th Century, as a sign of approval and benediction of the new congregation, Pope Leo XIII gifted the Sisters of Mercy with an oil painting reproduction of this image which is hung in the Baggot Street chapel.

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

EXTRAMURAL PROGRAMMES

ROME PILGRIMAGE 2016



Gathered at the painting, the pilgrims recommitted their lives in Mercy '*and to the commitment symbolised in this pilgrimage and the entering through the Holy Door*'.

The following was the text of the commitment:

WILL YOU AS A DOORKEEPER HOLD WIDE THE DOOR TO INVITE MERCY TO COME IN AND BE WITH US?

I WILL

WILL YOU AS DOORKEEPER HOLD WIDE THE DOOR TO INVITE THOSE THAT ARE HUNGRY, THIRSTY, IMPRISONED, SICK, STRANGERS, OR NAKED TO COME IN TO FIND MERCY?

I WILL

WILL YOU AS DOORKEEPER HELP US FIND NEW WAYS OF BEING MERCY ON THE EARTH AND AMONG A PEOPLE CRYING OUT FOR JUSTICE?

I WILL

WILL YOU AS DOORKEEPER GUIDE US INTO A HOLY PLACE OF CONTEMPLATION AND VISION?

I WILL

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

EXTRAMURAL PROGRAMMES

ROME PILGRIMAGE 2016

Selected comments from participants

“I surely felt the reality that we are already one. No matter all the logistical pieces, although meaningful and important, we are one: single in purpose, in spirit, in heart, dedication to Catherine’s legacy, the Mercy charism, the Critical Concerns and service.”

“These days for us in Rome have been pilgrimage for me. I have been so grateful for the meaningful way we have moved through these days and our many miles of walking. There has been prayer, storytelling, laughter, fun, community building...I know that I have been transformed in the midst of our journeying together, and I sense that others have been as well.”

“This pilgrimage has brought home to me why it might be that Catherine, who carried the wounded within her heart and whose response was to say that the spiritual and corporal works of mercy were the business of our lives, also knew that such practice of compassion required that one ‘dance every evening.’”

“I experienced our walking as not only walking as Mercy and in Mercy, but [also] towards Mercy where the diversities of cultures and spiritualities find a oneness in Mercy.”

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

EXTRAMURAL PROGRAMMES

ROME PILGRIMAGE 2016



HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

EXTRAMURAL PROGRAMMES

MERCY FORMATION 2016



2) MERCY FORMATION – AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS

- ❖ Schools in Australia - 10 x 2 hour presentations.
(5 schools - various groups including students, staff and Advisory Councils).

Melbourne

Academy of Mary Immaculate
St. Aloysius College

Sydney

Sacred Heart College, Geelong
Mercy College Coburg
Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College.

3) MERCY FORMATION – RELIGIOUS & PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

- ❖ Diocese of Ardagh & Clonmacnoise (100 Religious). 2 hour programme.
- ❖ Plenary Leadership of the Irish Mercy Congregation. 2 hour programme.
- ❖ Associates & Friends of Mercy, Boyle (50 people). 2 hour programme.
- ❖ Leadership of Mercy Cork Hospital. 1 hour presentation.

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY TOURS

The heritage value of Mercy International Centre to the global Mercy Community and to the wider community is significant. In 2016, large numbers came to tour Mercy International Centre to hear about the life of Catherine McAuley and the mission of Mercy around the world today. While the number of tour participants fluctuates annually, 2016 saw the highest number of tours in comparison to the past 5 years. This increase in numbers can be attributed in part to the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016.

In **excess of 1500 people** took part in tours of the centre.

RESEARCH

A number of Mercy Researchers, from various parts of the world, use MIA library for research purposes.

USE OF MERCY INTERNATIONAL CENTRE BY OTHER GROUPS

Mercy international Centre is happy to offer accommodation to other groups that engage in promoting activities that correspond with these of MIA.



A Lectio Divina mass with Orlagh in the Mercy Chapel at Baggot St.

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES

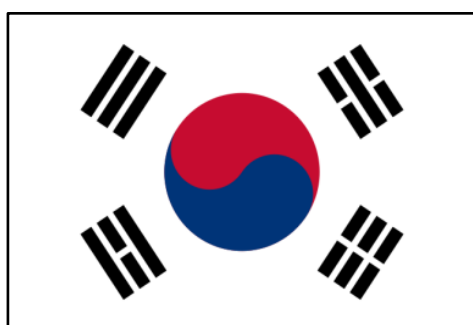
In 2016 the following groups were accommodated:



ORLAGH

LECTIO DIVINA MASS GROUP

Each Sunday this group is accommodated in our chapel in order to celebrate Eucharist and to engage in faith sharing.



EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

By groups including the Korean Community in Ireland.



CHARITY PARTNER MEETINGS

St. Vincent de Paul Society meets weekly in the Library to conduct their meetings and activities in relation to ministry to poor and underprivileged people.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Dublin Chapter of the Communion and Liberation Movement - one of 90 worldwide - meets monthly to use the video conferencing facilities of the Centre for the purpose of forming its members in Christian living and to be co-workers in the Church's mission in all areas of society.

HERITAGE & SPIRITUALITY PROGRAMMES



PREPARATION FOR SACRAMENTS

Local Primary schools use the chapel to prepare for and celebrate – First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation.



Confirmation class of St. Declan's School in the Mercy Chapel at Baggot St.

(B) MERCY GLOBAL ACTION (MGA) PROGRAMME



Mercy International's Global Action Programme coordinates action and advocacy around poverty, human trafficking and sustainable development.

Mercy Global Action (MGA) focuses on the following key areas:

- Opposing **Human Trafficking**.
- Supporting the rights of migrants including **refugees and people seeking asylum**.
- Opposing **inequality in communities**.
- Promoting **Cosmology**: caring for a fragile environment including highlighting the negative effects of mining, fracking and climate change.
- Promoting **Eco-Justice**: especially the human right to water, and the development of sustainable energy resources particularly within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Mercy Global Action Programme employs a multifaceted approach:

- **ADVOCATING** especially on behalf of those living in lesser developed countries and in communities at risk from exploitative practices.
- **EDUCATION & AWARENESS-RAISING** through the production of information pamphlets.
- **SUPPORT** of environmental protection initiatives and dissemination of best practice with a view to improving lives.
- **PROMOTION** of sustainable development enterprise.
- **Support of the UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS** which includes alleviating poverty, ensuring healthy lives, advancing equitable education with

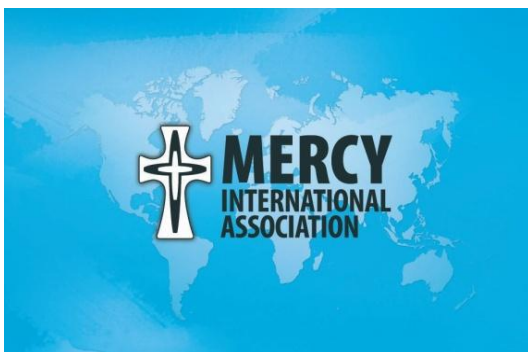
GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

particular emphasis on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and promoting inclusive and peaceful societies with access to justice for all.

- Provide LEADERSHIP TRAINING for the next generation of Mercy Ambassadors through workshops at the Mercy Young Leaders' Conference and internships and provision of other opportunities at the UN.
- COLLABORATION with other agencies and participation in coalitions with common goals.

Mercy Global Action Programme strives to ensure sustainable solutions and positive advancement for humanity and our shared world. It seeks to influence Leaders and Decision Makers to develop structural change that will improve the lives of millions of people over the long-term. In order to achieve such changes and to enhance impact, Mercy Global Action addresses the root causes of injustice and the abuses of human rights at both national and international level.

The programme is coordinated by the Mercy International Global Action office in Dublin. In addition it has an office at the UN which enables it to engage with the UN mechanisms and processes and to take part in international negotiations. Through a network of Committees, MGA disseminates best practice models and builds the global capacities of Mercy Sisters and Partners in Ministry working with vulnerable populations. In collaboration with Mercy personnel working at the grassroots, the Mercy Global Action Programme is a bridge between local needs and global advocacy which ensures that its activities have an impact at national and international levels.

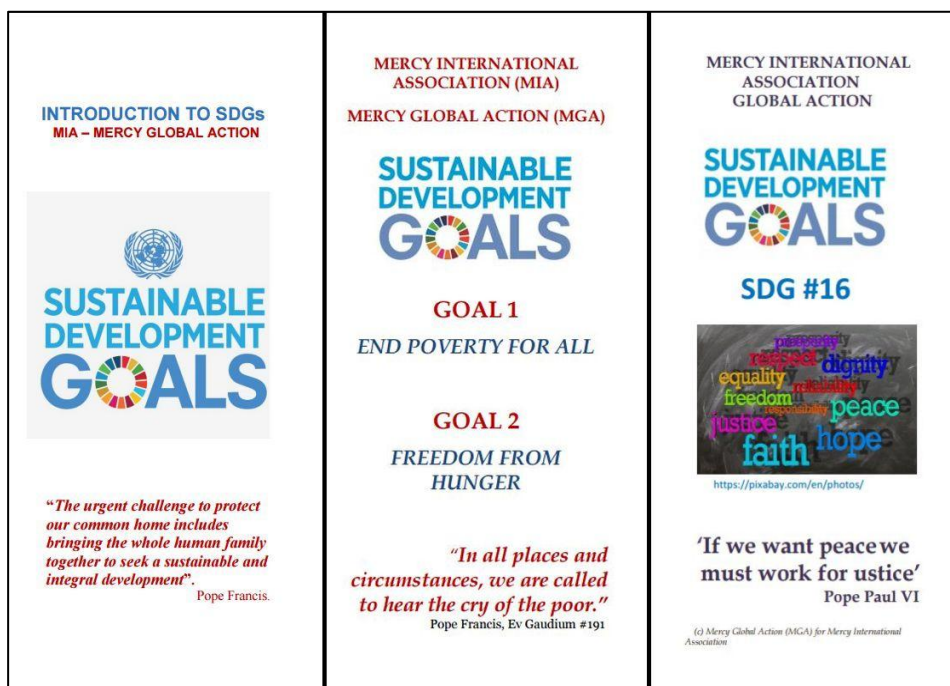


GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

The following is an overview of the activities of MGA in 2016.

1) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Produced user-friendly resources on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); specifically on SDGs for climate and environment, poverty and hunger, and peace. Each pamphlet has information with questions and suggestions to encourage the implementation of each goal.



- Joined the SDG Coalition in Ireland which aims to collaborate with the Government in developing strategic framework for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.
- Attended seminars on SDGs.
- Delivered a presentation on women working for peace, from a Christian perspective, at the Sisters of Faith & Peace meeting in Dublin.

GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

2) OPPOSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Monitored the passage of the “Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Bill” in the Irish Parliament to introduce the Nordic Model to Ireland, i.e. that the purchasing of sexual services is criminalised while the person providing these services is decriminalised.



Angela Reed rsm PhD, Áine O'Connor rsm, and Winifred Doherty RGS attend the UN Special High Level Panel
(courtesy Jeanette McDermott)

- Introduced the UN NGO community to understanding human trafficking from a “*Life Course Perspective*” through a series of workshops and presentations entitled “*Exploiting Vulnerability: An Exploration of the Lives of Filipino Women trafficked for Sexual Exploitation.*” The “*Life Course Perspective*” emphasises that sex work, and human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, are a result of a lifetime of cumulative disadvantage, stigmatisation and marginalization.
- Made written submission, “*Understanding Human Trafficking from a Life Course Perspective*” for the Commission on the Status of Women at the 60th Session at the UN in New York (2016).

GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

- Delivered presentation at the Special High Level Panel on Trafficking at the UN entitled *“In Stronger Partnership and Better Coordination to End Human Trafficking.”*
- Hosted two speakers (women who had been trafficked) to co-present on two panels at the Commission on the Status of Women.
- Presented research on human trafficking in Philippines to the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC, USA.
- Prepared and delivered a presentation to the Special Rapporteur on the trafficking of children at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- Attended the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (COP 8) in Vienna, Austria in October 2016. MGA advocated against human trafficking in preparation for UNODC’s review and adoption of the Global Plan of Action on Human Trafficking in March 2017.
- Researched how the global Mercy family is opposing Human Trafficking and offering support to victims and survivors. Published findings on MercyWorld website (http://www.mercyworld.org/mercy_global_action/project-home.cfm?pid=CE6358EE-EAB7-773C-EC387D98580E1095)



GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

- Facilitated bi-annual RENATE (Religious of Europe Network Against Trafficking and Exploitation) Assembly in Rome.
- Participated in a panel at UN Headquarters entitled, “Eliminating the Trafficking of Children” and presented testimonies from women who had been trafficked and launched a preventative framework based on research.
- Contributed to a consultation by UN Women to collect views on sex work, the sex trade, and prostitution. MGA’s contribution focused mainly on what women who were trafficked say about these terms, and their narratives indicate that the experience of being trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation reflects a life time of cumulative disadvantage, stigmatisation and marginalization.
- Prepared electronic materials for a rights-based response and life course approach to human trafficking through listening to the voices of women who had been trafficked. This was launched on the Mercy World website for the *16 Days of Activism for Non-Violence Against Women* culminating on the 25th November 2016 when the UN declared *International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women*.



GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

3) REFUGEES AND FORCED MIGRATION

- Joined the Refugee and Migrant Coalition in Ireland to lobby the Irish Government on the following key issues:
 - i. To address homelessness
 - ii. To end direct provision: this denies asylum seekers the right to work and to live independently, unless and until they are granted refugee status.
 - iii. To honour the Irish government's commitment to Syrian refugees in an integrated manner.

- Worked with the Irish Coalition on Migrants & Refugees to ensure the Irish Government honours their commitment to welcome 4,000 Syrian refugees plus unaccompanied children.

- Attended the opening session of the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants hosted by the UN General Assembly.

- Attended and presented at a follow-up "Special Meeting on Contributing to a Global Compact on Migration: Actions to Address Trafficking in Persons" sponsored by UNODC at UN Headquarters (September 2016).



GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

4) WATER

- Promoted a rights-based implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the UN, especially through upholding the Human Right to Water and Sanitation and opposing “fracking” as part of the current extractive development model.
- Moderated a panel entitled “Women, Water & Wellbeing” during the 60th Commission on the Status of Women on World Water Day (22 March).
- Co-wrote a water justice letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on concerns related to the mandate of governance of a new UN high level panel on water. Also communicated with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation on concerns related to the panel.



“Women, Water & Wellbeing”

*L-R: Áine O'Connor rsm, Christiana Peppard, Meera Karunanathan,
H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto, Mark Gruin, Emem Okon*

GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

5) CLIMATE

- Produced educational materials on Laudato Si – an encyclical by Pope Francis on Care of Our Common Home.
- Facilitated a “sign-on campaign” to progress the UN Paris Agreement on climate change.
- Supported campaigns to progress the UN Paris Agreement on climate change.
- Attended a seminar on *Climate Science: A Multidisciplinary Investigation*.



'LAUDATO SI – On Care for Our Common Home'
ENCYCLICAL OF POPE FRANCIS, June 2015.



Module of Six Sessions Designed for Group Work ¹

**Prepared by Sr. Denise Boyle fmdm
MIA-Global Action**

¹ © Mercy Global Action for Mercy International Association. www.mercyworld.org

GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

6) MINING & FRACKING

- Completed a toolkit on Mining – “Digging at our Conscience” – a resource for those concerned about the impact of mining on peoples and the planet. Now in 2nd printing.
- Urged the Australian Government to address the human rights abuses and ecological violations by coal and gas mining companies.
- Delivered two presentations at the UN in Geneva during the March 2016 session of the Human Rights Council on the human rights impact of coal seam gas mining, in particular the impact this mining has on the people of Chinchilla, Queensland where the violation of such rights contributed to the tragic death of George Bender, a fifth generation farmer and well-known campaigner for the rights of landholders in Australia.
- Authored articles for Mercy e-News on fracking and global trade agreements.



Launch of Toolkit on Mining – “Digging at our Conscience”
with MGA Team based in Dublin; Denise Boyle fmdm (back row, first on the left), Betty Lacey (back row, second from right) and Catherine Gibbons rsm (front row, second from the right)

GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

7) NETWORKING

The following is a list of the various ways in which MIA Global Action worked in collaboration with grass-roots members and with local and global partners.

i. GRASS ROOTS

- Conducted Field Visits to Newfoundland and the Southern Province (Ireland) to connect local and global justice issues in the areas of opposing human trafficking, eco-justice and environmental issues, and issues relating to migrants and refugees.
- Facilitated Mercy Global Action Groups in each congregation/institute meet regularly via conference call to share good practice and to facilitate inter-connection on common themes and to link the local with the global.
- Spoke at a New York City rally condemning the assassination of Berta Cáceres, a Honduran environmental and indigenous rights activist, and called on the US government to cease aid to Honduras and initiate an objective, transparent investigation of her murder.
- MGA stood in solidarity with the people of Honduras to demand that their voices be heard and to call for systematic change.
- Supported Sisters and Associates in Honduras to present a report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESC) when Honduras came before CESC in Geneva (June 2016).
- Produced an issues brief on fracking and human rights in English and Spanish for use with members and global groups.



Berta Cáceres (d. 2016)

Photo © Goldman Environmental Prize

GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

- Provided workshops and presentations with several groups during programme retreats in Baggot St. and during four other conferences in Ireland and the U.K.

ii. LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- Delivered presentations to local groups on the Mercy mission including Boyle Community Group and the Franciscan Leadership Group.
- Ran an advocacy workshop for Mercy colleges and university students (June 2016).
- Delivered the Academic Convocation at Gwynedd University, Pennsylvania, USA focusing on “Hope, Critical Thinking and Mercy” in relation to the global reality of human trafficking.
- Delivered a presentation on the girl child and human trafficking to Mercy Academy in Merion, Pennsylvania, USA to 450 students aged 15-18 years.
- Delivered a lecture At Notre Dame Law School and Centre of Civil Human Rights in Indiana, USA (November 2016). Engaged in open dialogues with faculty, staff and students at the Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies.



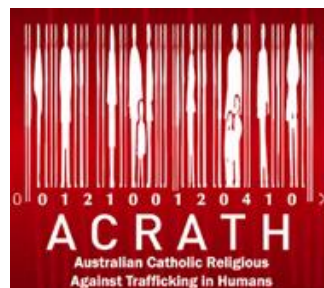
Gwynedd Mercy University Vice President of Academic Affairs Frank Scully; Angela Reed rsm PhD; and Associate Professor of Humanities Ellen Murray rsm PhD, at Gwynedd Mercy University's Academic Convocation, Pennsylvania, USA.

Photo © Gwynedd Mercy University

GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMMES

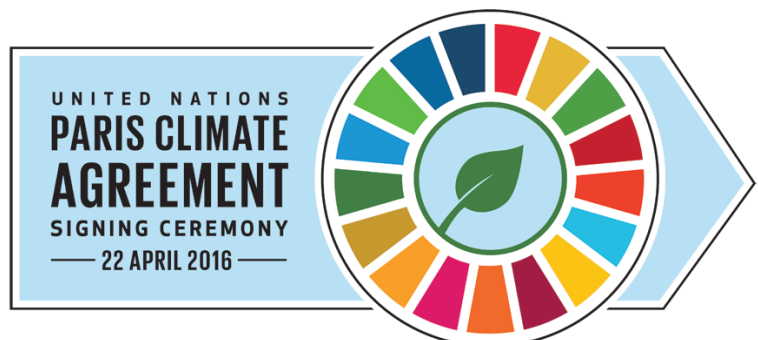
iii. PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- Delivered a presentation to the “Mercy-Vita” partnership committee – a Sisters of Mercy (Western Province) collaborative project addressing issues of food security, agricultural development and climate change in Ethiopia.
- Collaborated with partners on global action issues, including opposing human trafficking with the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH).
- Joined the Irish National Coalition 2030 – “Working together to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and assist the Irish Government to develop a national plan of action, following the ratification of UN 2030 Agenda in September 2015.”
- Forged alliances with Mercy International Association members and water justice groups globally in responding to the human rights to water and sanitation.
- Gave interview to the Global Sisters Report on the occasion of the UN signing of the Paris Agreement on climate.



www.acrath.org.au

People are NOT for sale



(C) MERCY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME



Mercy International's online programme is underpinned by the concepts of personal connection and supportive communication for the sake of mission. It aims, in the spirit of Catherine, to ensure that Mercy's global community can be interconnected and that links can be developed between those who have much, with those who have little, for the life of the world.

The Mercy website (mercyworld.org) and weekly Mercy e-Newsletter are the key components of MIA online communications, with social media a secondary but growing component. Mercy online connects the Mercy global network in 40+ countries, through a 'digital doorway' to Mercy International Centre (MIC) and acts as a 'virtual' Mercy Centre.

Mercy online acts as an entry point, a centralised meeting place and a shared resource for members of the Mercy network. It provides the many site visitors with information, education, connection, nourishment, inspiration and ongoing opportunities for engagement and interaction. It puts the 'local' into the 'global' arena and the 'global' back into the 'local'. Mercy life is enriched greatly by this mutuality and dialogue online and Mercy union is strengthened by the many regular connections made through online communications.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

Mercy online also reaches audiences outside the Mercy network whose interests are aligned with the vision and mission of MIA. These diverse audiences are welcome to access the rich media resources and to participate in the public online activities of MIA.

MERCY WORLD WEBSITE
<http://www.mercyworld.org/>

During 2016, the Mercy World website;

- PROMOTED MIA programmes.
- HIGHLIGHTED Global Action activities.
- RAISED AWARENESS of MIA's *Advancing Mission Campaign*.
- ACTED AS AN INTERCONNECTION point for the Global Mercy Family.
- FACILITATED the Mercy International Reflection Process (MIRP).
- RESOURCED the Year of Mercy.



The website attracted a growing number of visitors – now well in excess of 250,000 each month. At the end of the year a compilation of the year 2016's Mercy resources were collected in a 'virtual library' containing:

- Prayer Resources
- Books & Booklets
- Articles by Sisters of Mercy
- Videos, Slideshows & Powerpoints on Mercy themes
- Poetry
- Art
- Reflections
- Apps
- Mercy quotations

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

MERCY E-NEWS



The 47 editions of e-News provided weekly news, resources, reports and a focus on global needs and responses worldwide.

Some themes in 2016 included;

- World Water Day
- Season of Mercy
- Human Rights Day
- Season of Creation
- End Poverty
- Year of Mercy (2016)
- Cosmology
- Eco-Justice
- Care 4 Creation
- World Day of Forestry
- *Laudato Si*
- Mercy International Reflection Process (MIRP)

ABOUT MIA THE CENTRE FOUNDRRESS HERITAGE SPIRITUALITY MERCY NETWORK MERCY GLOBAL ACTION RESOURCES NEWS CENTRE

MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION Today, Sisters of Mercy, through Mercy International Association, use their resources to respond to issues of global poverty demonstrated in the massive displacement of persons worldwide.

NEWS CENTRE

E-news Archives

Mercy E-News is published each Wednesday, 48 weeks each year and distributed to subscribers via email. Each week's issue is automatically archived on this page.

August 31, Edition 686
World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation: 1st September | Celebrate Mercy Day With Us in Person at Baggot Street or... | ...Watch the Live Stream and Participate at Home | Thank You for Greetings Received: Do Send in Yours | MIA Prayer Intention for the Coming Week: Victims of Devastating Events | Catherine's Canonisation Cause: Prayer Requests | A Litany for Mercy Day 2016 | Marie Chin rsm RIP (Americas) | Sisters of Mercy in Arkansas Inducted into Hall of Fame (Americas) | Final Reminder: Sabbatical for Senior Sisters (ANZ) | Mercy Celebrates a Milestone (Brisbane Congregation) | Burren Outdoor Retreat (The Congregation) | Mercy Volunteer Corps Commissions 44 More Volunteers (Americas) | Widening Our Circle of Compassion: A Mercy Ritual (The Congregation) | All it takes is one good person to restore hope! (ANZ) | Worth | On This Day | Mercy: All Things New - Archdiocese of St. Louis | Your Life on Earth | Words of Mercy | Reflection | 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time C (Luke 14:25-33) | [View](#)

MERCY E-NEWS

The Online Newsletter of the MERCY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
[View Archives & Subscribe](#)

Upcoming Events & Programmes

November 06, 2016
Lectio Divina Eucharistic Liturgy: Sundays at Baggot Street

April 14, 2017
MIC Closed for Easter Holidays

April 23, 2017
ISM PNG Ethos Pilgrimage
[View More](#)

More Featured Updates

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

The Communications programme for 2016, the Year of Mercy, had the following special highlights:

(1) THE MERCY INTERNATIONAL REFLECTION PROCESS (MIRP)



BACKGROUND

In 2013, Mercy Global Action's Theological Advisory Committee began to develop an international reflection process to provide ways to explore the challenges and issues that the new cosmology and its link to eco-justice are bringing to light in our world. Such a process would build on our rich Mercy resources and deepen connections which we have been steadily building across the Mercy world.

At their May 2015 meeting, the MIA Members and Board of Directors endorsed the implementation of a Mercy International Reflection Process (MIRP) beginning on December 8th 2015 and ending on December 12th 2016. This process was developed over two years at the initiative of MIA Mercy Global Action's Theological Advisory Committee. This International Reflection Process was the third step in a rich three-year cycle of global Mercy reflection:

- (1) The 2014 20th Anniversary celebrations of MIA
- (2) The 2015 Year of Consecrated Life
- (3) The 2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy in the universal Church.

The MIRP was the international project for Mercy world for the Jubilee Year 2016 and was co-ordinated through the MIA website and digital resources.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

MIRP GOALS

- (1) To draw on rich Mercy resources – theologians, experiences in ministry, collective action to address injustices, connections globally – to make a contribution to the work that is happening at the global and local levels in relation to cosmology and justice.
- (2) To provide ways for engaging and addressing the challenges and issues that the new cosmology and its link to eco-justice are bringing to light in our Mercy communities, congregations and international engagements.
- (3) To further develop and deepen the connections which we have been steadily building across the Mercy world.



MIRP Team meeting at Baggot Street, 2015

Back row (L-R): Sheila Curran rsm (*Coordinator, The Congregation*) Elaine Wainwright (*Guiding Team, International Director*), Kathleen Rushton rsm (*Process and Content Coordinator, Aotearoa New Zealand*), Anne Walsh (*Guiding Team, International Communications Director*), Adele Howard rsm (*Coordinator ISMAPNG*)

Front row (L-R): Marianne Comfort (*Coordinator Americas*), Helen Diviney rsm (*Guiding Team, International Coordinator*), Natalie Murphy rsm (*Coordinator, Aotearoa New Zealand*), Patricia McMahon rsm (*Coordinator Great Britain Union*), Josephine Davies rsm (*Coordinator Great Britain Institute*), Teresa Anderson rsm (*Co-coordinator Aotearoa New Zealand*), Elizabeth Marrie rsm (*Coordinator Newfoundland*)

Absent: Carmela Cabactulan rsm (*Coordinator, Philippines*), Sandra Lupi rsm (*Coordinator, Brisbane Congregation*), Valda Dickinson rsm (*Coordinator, Parramatta and North Sydney Congregations*)

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

THE PROCESS LAUNCHED

Launched in December 2015, the process began to be enacted from the beginning of 2016 and was greatly enhanced by on-line communication, which allowed for maximum participation. This was a process of discerning together globally a shared response to “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” It enabled MIA members and other participants to address the many aspects relating to these complex issues.

Approximately 250 groups from around the Mercy world participated, including participants from Belize, Peru, Guyana, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Ireland, New Zealand, USA, Australia and Newfoundland.

The composition of the groups varied, some had Sisters or Sisters & Associates, or Sisters and Co-workers/ Partners in Ministry, and some groups had no Sisters at all. The process touched thousands and has proved to be extraordinary in bringing together people to discuss and implement ways to care for the earth and care for the poor. Consciousness has been raised with a greater awareness around several issues. There was a consistency of concerns globally and in the reactions people had towards these issues: homelessness, forced migration, human trafficking, water, fracking, garbage, destruction of the environment.

Peoples’ shared reactions to these concerns were a collective wish to respond to global issues at the local level. Mercy e-News and Mercy website provided the interconnecting oversight, resources, and reports and facilitated on-going communication which enabled an integrated and unified process.

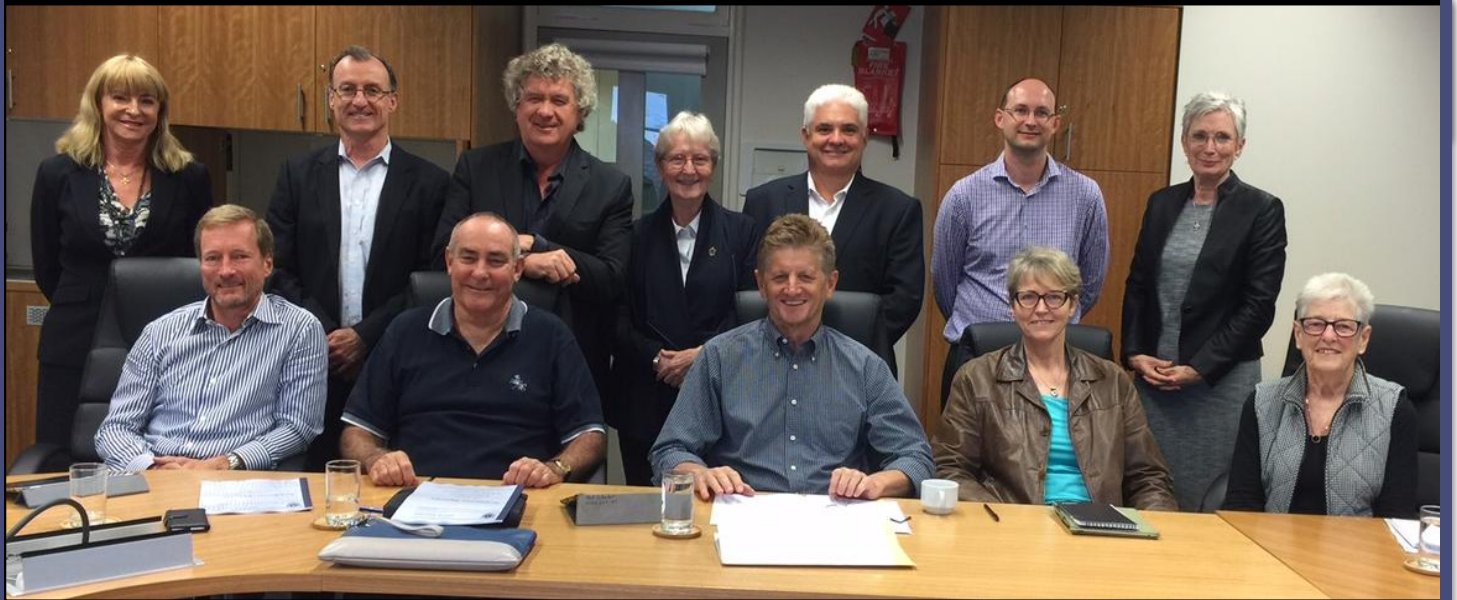
From this engagement MIA will work to articulate a new vision and praxis for the Mercy family internationally. MIA believes that such an undertaking will make a significant contribution to both the church and society - challenged as they are by the issues we have identified.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

GLOBAL MIRP GROUPS

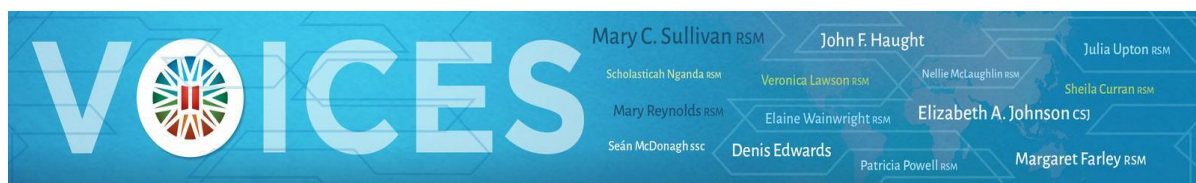






COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

(2) VOICES



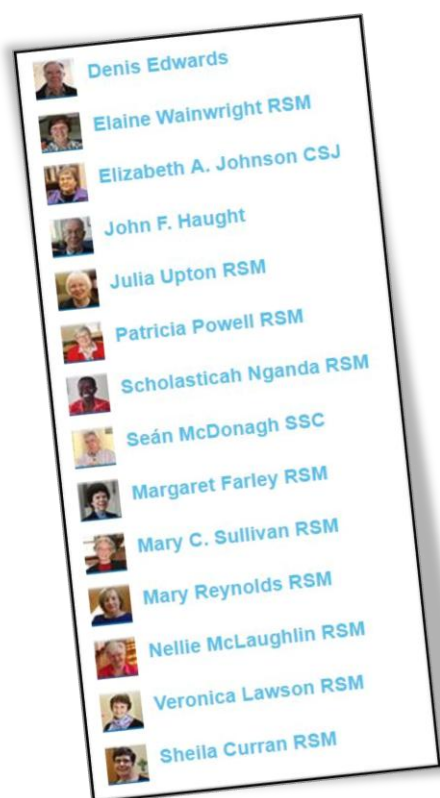
Voices was a set of resources created for Stage Three of the Mercy International Reflection Process (MIRP). It was made up of **video interviews with 14 scholars and other experts** from USA, Ireland and Australia, who generously gave of their time in April /May 2016 to contribute their insights and experiences to this process.

Drawing on the Tradition in Scripture, Theology, Spirituality, Ethics and the writings of Catherine McAuley, these interviews offered an inspiring range of insights to assist all in a better understanding of the action of God in our world today, particularly in the light of the challenge to respond to *'The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor'*.

The video interviews were in reference to several key questions which each of the Speakers was asked to address. These questions covered the Speaker's response to the

process *'The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor'*; biblical and/or theological texts or traditions s/he draws on; reflections on one or two of the named areas of concern the Speaker has considered in her/his writings or teaching and her/his reflections on or hopes for the Mercy International Reflection Process. Most of the Speakers offered additional insights from their experience and particular fields of expertise.

While produced as a resource for Stage Three of the Mercy International Reflection Process, these interviews are of interest to all who are concerned about the challenges we face in caring for our common home.



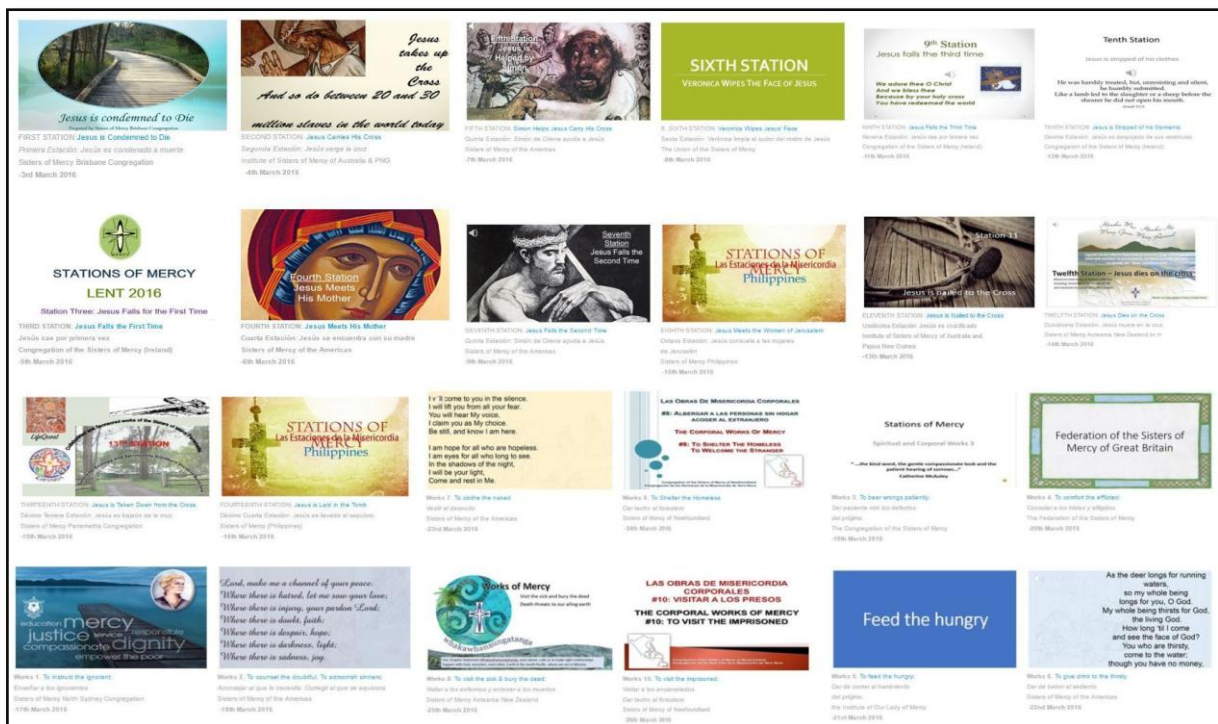
COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

(3) THE STATIONS OF MERCY



The aim of the Stations of Mercy was to raise the awareness of how the charism of Mercy is expressed in the various ministries of the Mercy family worldwide. For 24 days in a row, *Stations of Mercy* were uploaded to the website, commencing with those based on the 14 Traditional Stations of the Cross, followed by 10 of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

Together, these 24 Stations comprised the *Stations of Mercy* and were a lens through which to focus on the contemporary ministries of Mercy around the world. These ministries respond to the suffering cosmic Christ today and make the Spiritual & Temporal Works of Mercy a reality in the lives of those in need of God's mercy and compassion.



COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

(4) READINGS FOR MERCY



A set of 15 articles were published over the 12 months. These articles resonated, nourished, inspired and challenged readers as they sought to address '*the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor*' in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. The authors and articles, published in English & Spanish, were as follows:

- **Mary C. Sullivan rsm:** 'Our Call to Weep and Act Mercifully'
- **Mary Reynolds rsm:** 'Mercy – Re-awakening Us to New life'
- **Marie Farrell rsm:** 'The Mercy of the Lord Endures Forever'
- **Cheryl Camp rsm:** 'Mercy Spirituality and Interfaith Dialogue'
- **Mary Wickham rsm:** 'Exploring the 'M' in Mercy'
- **Mary C. Sullivan rsm:** 'Catherine McAuley and Earth'
- **Helena O' Donoghue rsm:** 'Mercy: "The Personal Face of the Only God We Know"'
- **Elizabeth Julian rsm:** 'Mercy: The Beating Heart of the Bible'
- **Elizabeth Dowling rsm:** 'Hearing the Voice of Earth in the Lukan Parable of the Pounds.'
- **Margaret A. Farley rsm:** 'Mercy and its Works: If Things Fall Apart, Can They Be Put Right?'
- **Mary C. Sullivan rsm:** 'The Day of Catherine's Death'
- **Sheila Carney rsm:** 'Catherine McAuley – an Integrated Life'
- **Brenda Dolphin rsm:** 'Catherine McAuley – Heroic and Holy'
- **Marilyn Sunderma rsm:** 'Mercyworks: Compassion In Action: Reflections On Mt. 25'
- **Mary Wickham rsm:** 'A Litany of Mercy'

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

(5) LIVE STREAMING

Two major celebratory events:

- MERCY DAY (September 24th)
- FOUNDATION DAY (December 12th)

were live-streamed via the Mercy World website so that the global Mercy family could join in the celebrations via computer or mobile device.



A Celebration of

The 185th Anniversary of the Founding of the Sisters of Mercy,
the fruits of the Jubilee Year of Mercy,
the richness of the Mercy International Reflection Process
&
the ongoing call to the Ministry of Mercy

Sunday, 11 December 2016

Mercy International Centre
64a Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2

(6) SEASON OF CREATION



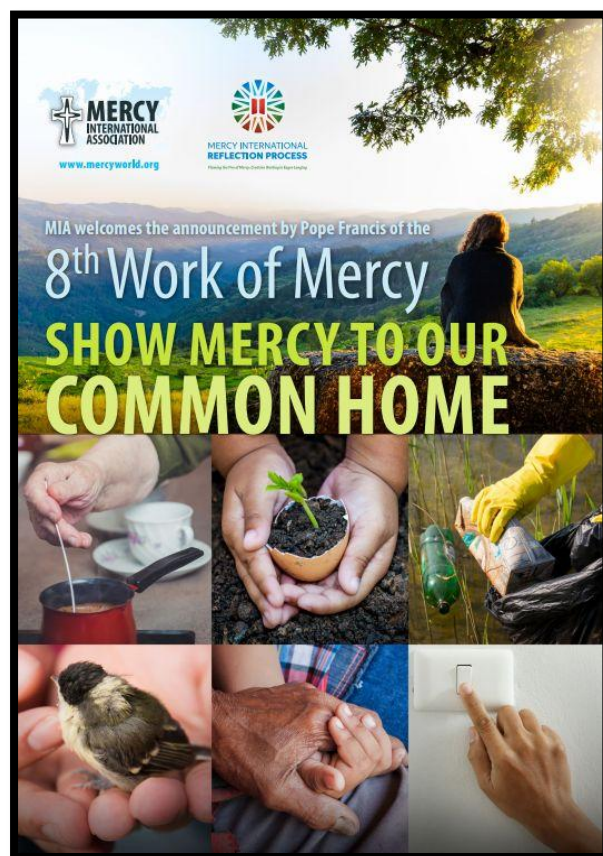
Since 1999 the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) has urged churches to adopt a time for Creation from the 1st September to the Feast of St. Francis on the 4th October. In 2015 Pope Francis designated September 1st as the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* in the Catholic Church, encouraging all members of the Catholic community to '*rediscover in our own rich spiritual patrimony the deepest motivations for our concern for the care of creation*'.

MIA offered the following to support a Mercy response to this request:

- A **guide** to a variety of available resources for use during the season.
- A **graphic**, specially designed by MIA, to highlight the season and suitable for posting on notice boards and reproduction on posters, information bulletins, and prayer sheets was made available through Mercy e-News.
- An invitation to readers of e-News, and to members of the wider Mercy network, to submit a **photograph** to the Mercy World website of an aspect of the beauty of our world. The purpose of this was to create a daily visual meditation on each of the 34 days of the Season of Creation.
- During the Season of Creation readers of e-News and visitors to the website were invited to use the **prayer for the Earth** each day.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

(7) WELCOME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF 8TH WORK OF MERCY



Pope Francis, on the Church's *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* added **care for the environment** to the traditional, Gospel-inspired works of mercy. In the message, he said:

'May the works of mercy also include care for our common home? As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for a grateful contemplation of God's world, which allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us. As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness' and 'makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.'

MIA welcomed this announcement and created a special graphic for the 8th Work of Mercy using the title of the actual message of Pope Francis '*Show Mercy to our Common Home*'/ '*Usemos misericordia con nuestra casa común*'.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES

(8) NEW TECHNOLOGY

In order to improve MIA's capacity for communication, two new technological supports were added:



The reception area of the Mercy International Centre (MIC) now displays via video screen, images of Mercy Ministry around the world.

A video conferencing facility, LifeSize, has been installed which will enhance capacity for the interconnection of the Mercy global family, promote networking between the various individuals and groups associated with MIA, and enable the extension of programmes via digital means.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

During 2017, MIA hopes to continue the work already in progress and to expand in a number of areas including;

GOVERNANCE

A Board handbook will be developed in order to take account of the revised MIA Constitution (Memorandum & Articles) which was updated in the light of the Companies Act 2014.

STRATEGIC PLAN

During 2017, a wide-ranging consultation will take place with various groups from among the MIA stakeholders. These stakeholders include Trustees, Board Directors, Staff, Service-Users and Focus Groups with particular experience and expertise relevant to the areas of ministry of MIA, in order to review the current Strategic Plan and to formulate a revised plan for the coming 3 years.

DIGITAL PROGRAMMING

In order to extend the Leadership Programmes to a greater audience than those who can travel to Mercy International Centre, a number of programmes will be offered online. Some programmes will be support curriculums for Ministry Leaders, who have attended programmes in Mercy International Centre and who wish to roll out similar programmes with their own staffs. The team at Mercy International will support these programmes with on-line materials and webinar presentations.

COMMUNICATIONS

In order to respond to the increasing use of mobile devices as a way of accessing the internet, the Mercy World website will be re-built in a “Responsive Web” design format. Live-streaming and webinar capacities will also be addressed.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMME

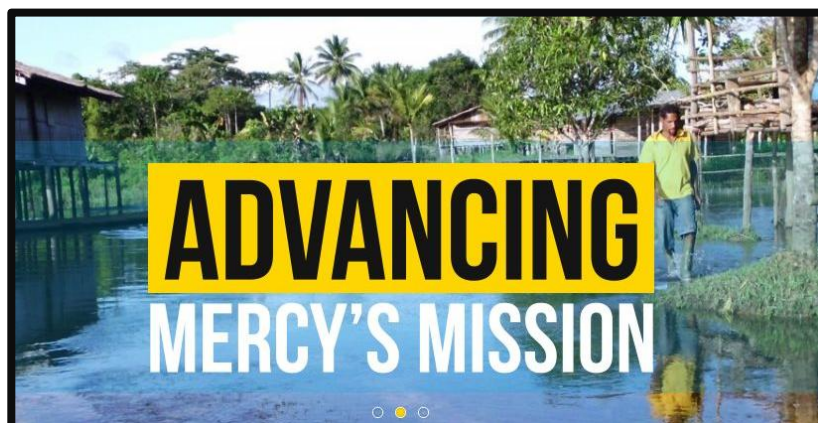
The Mercy International Reflection Process (MIRP) has to a large extent been a strategic review of the many ways in which the degradation of earth and the displacement of peoples is necessitating a response. Following the outcome of this process, the global action programme will take account of how responses can be made to these challenges and the networks that can be joined or formed in making these responses.

It has also been agreed that in keeping with Catherine McAuley's tradition of responding to crisis events, MIA will include a hands-on support project to a crisis need on an annual basis from 2017 onwards.

ADVANCING MERCY MISSION

The Fundraising Campaign, aimed at assuring the continuation of MIA's mission will be intensified. An element of the fundraising campaign will be the continued promotion of a *spirituality of fundraising* which emphasises passion for the Mercy vision and an invitation to others to be part of the realisation of that vision through time, talent and treasure.

This will be done through effective communication and face to face individual and group meetings with the aim of communicating that, '*...whether we are asking for money or giving money, we are drawn together by GOD, who is about to do a new thing through our collaboration.*' (Henri Nouwen)



FINANCES

FUNDRAISING

One of the key steps in our vision is *Advancing Mercy Mission*, a campaign that aims to secure Mercy's legacy through creating a permanent multi-million endowment fund that will create a long-term financial footing for this mission. Thanks to its early progress, the initiative has now grown into a broader effort to raise monies to also support its programmes and capital improvements.

Advancing Mercy Mission presents significant challenges but is also an opportunity to share the Mercy International Association's mission with a broader audience. It gives our friends and supporters an opportunity to collaborate with us to uphold Mercy's heritage for future generations.

Major strides have been made outside Ireland to fund the endowment and it is hoped that in the coming year, the fruits of this effort will result in the establishment of this endowment in Ireland.

At present the endowment fund in Ireland stands at **€772,409**.

The campaign is assisted by CCS Fundraising, a strategic fundraising firm that partners with non-profits for transformational change. MIA Fundraising Committee & CCS have together attended to the preparation of a campaign plan, recruitment of Volunteer Leadership, development of strategies for six and seven-figure gifts, and the organization of cultivation events.



“...Since there is very little good can be accomplished or evil avoided without the aid of money, we must look after it in small as well as in great matters.”

Catherine McAuley in a letter to Father James Maher

January 10th, 1838

FINANCES

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

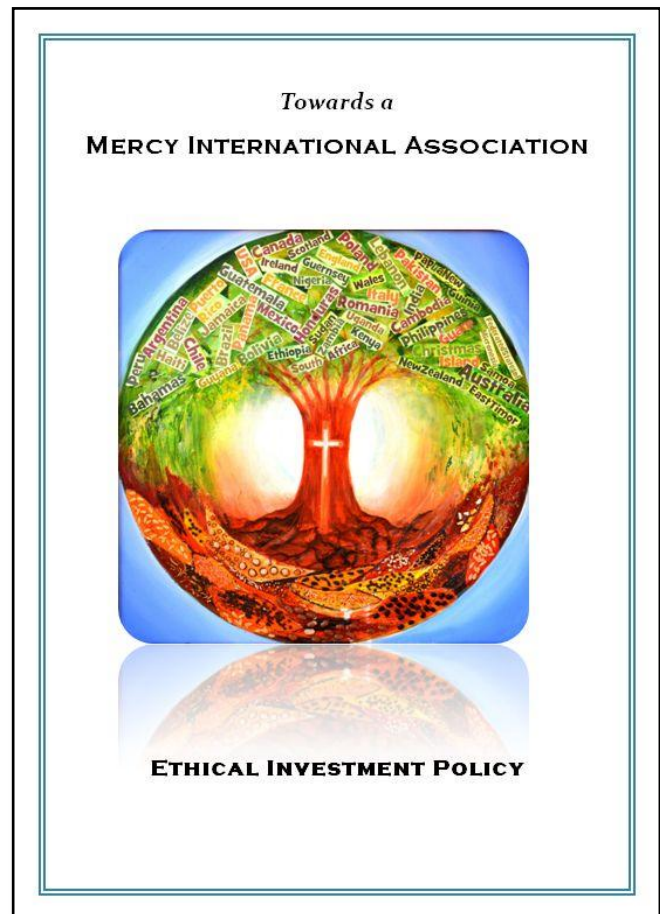
In 2016, MIA changed its Investment Managers from L&P Financial Management and Advisory Services to Goodbody Investment Services.

ETHICAL INVESTMENT POLICY

MIA has developed Ethical Investment Guidelines that aim:

- To promote our ethos through our investments.
- To balance the need for financial return with our desire to support only companies that operate in a manner consistent with our ethos.

Our policy directs avoiding investment in companies that operate in a manner contrary to our values or that contravene certain ethical criteria.



ACCOUNTING PACKAGE

A change has been made in the accounting package used by MIA – from MYOB to SAGE. The package is more adaptable to the audit format.

FINANCES

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MIA Financial Statements were prepared in compliance with FRS 102, *'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.'*

The Financial Statement for the Financial Year ended 31st December 2016 contains;

- Directors' Report
- Directors' Responsibilities Statement
- Independent Auditor's Report to the Members
- Income & Expenditure
- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Changes in Funds
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Notes on the Financial Statement
 - Statement of Compliance
 - Accounting Policies including Tangible and Financial Assets, Income, Staff Costs, Depreciation and Reserves.

Mercy International Association

**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not
having Share Capital)**

Financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2016

Mercy International Association

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**Mercy International Association
Company limited by guarantee**

Directors and other information

Directors	Patricia McDermott R.S.M. Peter Burnett Denise Fox R.S.M. Maura Hyland (Resigned 16 May 2016) Ron Ashworth James Peppiatt-Combes (Resigned 16 May 2016) Colette Cronin R.S.M. Margaret Casey R.S.M. Scholasticah Nganda R.S.M. Kevin Hoy (Appointed 16 May 2016) Mary Moorhead (Appointed 16 May 2016)
Secretary	Mary Reynolds R.S.M.
Company Registered Number	194263
Registered Office	11 Adelaide Road Dublin 2
Business address	64A Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2
Auditors	Robert J. Kidney & Co 11 Adelaide Road Dublin 2
Bankers	Bank of Ireland Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2
Solicitors	Mason Hayes & Curran South Bank House Barrow Street Dublin 4

Mercy International Association

Directors report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2016.

Directors

The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as follows:

Patricia McDermott R.S.M.
Peter Burnett
Denise Fox R.S.M.
Maura Hyland (Resigned 16 May 2016)
Ron Ashworth
James Peppiatt-Combes (Resigned 16 May 2016)
Colette Cronin R.S.M.
Margaret Casey R.S.M.
Scholasticah Nganda R.S.M.
Kevin Hoy (Appointed 16 May 2016)
Mary Moorhead (Appointed 16 May 2016)

Principal activities

The company is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

It was formed to restore the property at 64A Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, in which Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy in 1831 and to foster unity among the Sisters worldwide and to increase awareness and experience of their global interdependence.

The objects of the company are charitable, to assist and support the aspirations and objectives of the Sisters of Mercy.

Detailed information on the activities and governance of the company are available on the company's website www.mercyworld.org.

Development and performance

The company has historically been supported through initial capital contributions and ongoing income from congregations of the Sisters of Mercy as well as the provision of services and bequests and donations.

The principal income funding with Sisters of Mercy congregations has been historically agreed on a multi-year basis taking into account the anticipated funding needs of the company. Previously any surplus in the company was treated as deferred revenue on the basis that it would reduce the funding requirements in the future. The directors have considered this with regard to the changing nature of the funding of the company with the creation of a permanent endowment fund to provide perpetual income toward the funding of the company. As a result the previously deferred revenue of €1,595,412 has been transferred to reserves. The prior period figures have been amended to reflect this change.

Mercy International Association

Directors report (continued)

Assets and liabilities and financial position

The balance sheet on page 9 indicates net assets of €9,730,750 with net current assets of €247,415.

During the year, the company received gifts and donations relating to the creation of a permanent endowment fund whose capital is to be preserved and the income applied toward the operating costs of the company. €439,548 was received during the year and at the year-end the total amount of the endowment fund was €772,409. Certain restricted amounts were received previously. To properly present the capital nature of the endowment fund it has been presented as a separate reserve in the balance sheet. The total fund has been invested with third party investment managers in a separate account from the company's other financial assets.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the company are ensuring the continuation of the funding commitments required to ensure the activities of the company can continue.

Likely future developments

The company has a specific purpose and it is not anticipated that any change will be made to this in the foreseeable future.

Governance

We comply with the Governance Code for community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland. We reviewed our organisations's compliance with the principles of the Code on 24th February 2017. We based this review on an assessment of our organisational practice against the recommended actions for each principle. Our review sets out actions and completion dates for any issues that the assessment identifies need to be addressed.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at The Mercy International Centre, Lower Baggot St, Dublin

Mercy International Association

Directors report (continued)

Relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

In accordance with Sections 380 to 385 of the Companies Act 2014, the auditors, Robert J. Kidney & Co , have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 24th February 2017 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Margaret Casey R.S.M.
Director

Kevin Hoy
Director

Mercy International Association

Directors responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board

Margaret Casey R.S.M.
Director

Kevin Hoy
Director

Date: 24th February 2017

Independent auditor's report to the members of Mercy International Association

We have audited the financial statements of Mercy International Association for the year ended 31 December 2016 which comprise the Income and expenditure, balance sheet, Statement of changes in funds, statement of cash flows and related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the directors responsibilities statement set out on page 5, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the directors report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2016 and of its profit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant reporting framework and, in particular the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
Mercy International Association (continued)**

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the directors report is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

Richard Kidney

For and on behalf of
Robert J. Kidney & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants, and Statutory Auditors
11 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

24th February 2017

Mercy International Association

**Income and expenditure
Financial year ended 31 December 2016**

	Note	2016 €	2015 €
Income	4	729,618	728,216
Gross income		<u>729,618</u>	<u>728,216</u>
Operating expenses		(1,223,129)	(1,218,747)
Other operating income	5	497,082	486,720
Operating profit/(loss)	6	<u>3,571</u>	<u>(3,811)</u>
Income from other financial assets	8	20,801	196,482
Other interest receivable and similar income	9	957	9,428
Income for the financial year		<u><u>25,329</u></u>	<u><u>202,099</u></u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Mercy International Association

**Statement of comprehensive income
Financial year ended 31 December 2016**

	2016	2015
	€	€
Net income for the financial year	25,329	202,099
Transfer of opening endowment funds previously presented as a current liability	332,861	-
Total comprehensive income for the financial year	<u>358,190</u>	<u>202,099</u>

Mercy International Association

**Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2016**

	Note	2016 €	€	2015 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	5,444,716		5,479,253	
Financial assets	11	3,266,210		3,665,560	
Financial assets - endowment fund	11	772,409		-	
		<u>9,483,335</u>		<u>9,144,813</u>	
Current assets					
Stocks	12	5,000		38,284	
Debtors	13	10,361		16,005	
Cash at bank and in hand		266,818		95,580	
		<u>282,179</u>		<u>149,869</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	14	<u>(34,764)</u>		<u>(365,453)</u>	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			<u>247,415</u>		<u>(215,584)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>9,730,750</u>		<u>8,929,229</u>
Net assets			<u><u>9,730,750</u></u>		<u><u>8,929,229</u></u>
Capital and reserves					
Capital contributions	16	7,236,098		7,236,098	
Endowment reserve	16	772,409		-	
Profit and loss account	16	1,722,243		1,693,131	
Members funds			<u><u>9,730,750</u></u>		<u><u>8,929,229</u></u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 24th February 2017 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Margaret Casey R.S.M.
Director

Kevin Hoy
Director

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Mercy International Association

**Statement of changes in funds
Financial year ended 31 December 2016**

	Capital contributions	Endowment reserve	Profit and loss account	Total
	€	€	€	€
At 1 January 2015 (as previously reported)	7,236,098	-	101,502	7,337,600
Prior period adjustments	-	-	1,389,530	1,389,530
At 1 January 2015 (restated)	7,236,098	-	1,491,032	8,727,130
Income for the financial year			202,099	202,099
Total comprehensive income for the financial year	-	-	202,099	202,099
At 31 December 2015 (as previously reported)	7,236,098	-	101,502	7,337,600
Prior period adjustments	-	-	1,595,412	1,595,412
At 31 December 2015 (restated) and 1 January 2016	7,236,098	-	1,696,914	8,933,012
Income for the financial year			25,329	25,329
Other comprehensive income for the financial year:				
Transfer of opening endowment funds previously presented as a current liability	-	332,861	-	332,861
Total comprehensive income for the financial year	-	332,861	25,329	358,190
Endowment fund donations received during the year	-	439,548	-	439,548
Total investments by and distributions to owners	-	439,548	-	439,548
At 31 December 2016	7,236,098	772,409	1,722,243	9,730,750

Mercy International Association

Statement of cash flows
Financial year ended 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities		
Income for the financial year	25,329	202,099
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible assets	34,061	42,818
Income from other financial assets	(20,801)	(196,482)
Other interest receivable and similar income	(957)	(9,428)
(Gain)/loss on disposal of tangible assets	(200)	-
Accrued expenses/(income)	5,955	4,724
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Stocks	33,284	13,029
Trade and other debtors	5,644	5,629
Trade and other creditors	(447,371)	-
Cash generated from operations	(365,056)	62,389
Interest received	957	9,428
Net cash (used in)/from operating activities	<u>(364,099)</u>	<u>71,817</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	-	(126,525)
Proceeds from sale of tangible assets	676	-
Purchase of other investments	(4,011,257)	-
Proceeds from sale of other investments	4,106,370	87,997
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities	<u>95,789</u>	<u>(38,528)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Endowment fund receipts	439,548	-
Net cash from financing activities	<u>439,548</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	171,238	33,289
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	95,580	62,291
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<u>266,818</u>	<u>95,580</u>

Mercy International Association

Notes to the financial statements Financial year ended 31 December 2016

1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in Euro, which is the functional currency of the entity.

The directors have invoked the true and fair view override with regard to the profit and loss and balance sheet formats in Schedule 3 of the Companies Act 2014 as permitted in Section 3.4 of FRS 102 and Section 291(5) of the Companies Act 2014. This has resulted in the use of descriptive terms in the profit and loss account more suited to the entity. Given that the company is a company limited by guarantee, the capital and reserves section of the balance sheet has been adapted accordingly to reflect this fact.

The directors consider that the layout adopted more correctly reflects the nature of the entity given that the entity is a not-for-profit organisation which is limited by guarantee. To use the formats set out in Schedule 3 of Companies Act 2014 and Section 4 and 5 of FRS 102 would not result in the financial statements showing information that would provide information relevant to the understanding of the directors and the performance and financial position of the charity.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Income and expenditure account when the company is entitled to the income, the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and it is probable the income will be received.

Taxation

No charge to current or deferred taxation arises as the company has been granted charitable status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997. Irrecoverable value added tax is expended as incurred.

Mercy International Association

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Financial year ended 31 December 2016

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fittings fixtures and equipment	- 20%	reducing balance
Motor vehicles	- 20%	reducing balance

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Financial assets

Financial assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any provision for diminution in value. Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in income and expenditure.

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition.

Mercy International Association

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Financial year ended 31 December 2016

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in income and expenditure.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in income and expenditure.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets or either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in income and expenditure, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

3. Limited by guarantee

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding €1.27.

4. Income

The whole of the income is attributable to the principal activity of the company principally undertaken in Ireland.

5. Other operating income

	2016	2015
	€	€
Generated support	497,082	486,720

6. Operating income

Operating profit/(loss) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2016	2015
	€	€
Depreciation of tangible assets	34,061	42,818
(Gain)/loss on disposal of tangible assets	(200)	-

Mercy International Association

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2016

7. Staff costs

The number of persons employed by the company during the financial year, was as follows:

	2016	2015
	Number	Number
Administrative	6	5

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	2016	2015
	€	€
Wages and salaries	231,618	209,024

No employee received employee benefits excluding employer pension costs of more than €70,000 in the year (2015: Nil).

8. Income from other financial assets

	2016	2015
	€	€
Gain on disposal - unlisted	1,262	191,630
Gain on fair value adjustment - unlisted	19,539	4,852
	<u>20,801</u>	<u>196,482</u>

9. Other interest receivable and similar income

	2016	2015
	€	€
Bank deposits	957	9,428

Mercy International Association

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2016

10. Tangible assets

	Freehold property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
At 1 January 2016	5,308,473	751,992	12,675	6,073,140
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(12,675)	(12,675)
At 31 December 2016	<u>5,308,473</u>	<u>751,992</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,060,465</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2016	-	581,688	12,199	593,887
Charge for the financial year	-	34,061	-	34,061
Disposals	-	-	(12,199)	(12,199)
At 31 December 2016	<u>-</u>	<u>615,749</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>615,749</u>
Carrying amount				
At 31 December 2016	<u>5,308,473</u>	<u>136,243</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,444,716</u>
	Freehold property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
At 1 January 2015	5,308,473	625,467	12,675	5,946,615
Additions	-	126,525	-	126,525
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2015	<u>5,308,473</u>	<u>751,992</u>	<u>12,675</u>	<u>6,073,140</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2015	-	538,989	12,080	551,069
Charge for the financial year	-	42,699	119	42,818
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2015	<u>-</u>	<u>581,688</u>	<u>12,199</u>	<u>593,887</u>
Carrying amount				
At 31 December 2015	<u>5,308,473</u>	<u>170,304</u>	<u>476</u>	<u>5,479,253</u>

Mercy International Association

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2016

11. Financial assets

	Other investments other than loans	Endowment fund	Total
	€	€	€
Cost			
At 1 January 2016	3,665,560	-	3,665,560
Additions	4,011,257	439,548	4,450,805
Disposals	(4,105,108)	-	(4,105,108)
Fair value adjustments	19,539	-	19,539
Transfers	(332,861)	332,861	-
Other movements	7,823	-	7,823
At 31 December 2016	<u>3,266,210</u>	<u>772,409</u>	<u>4,038,619</u>
 Provision for diminution in value			
At 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2016	<u>3,266,210</u>	<u>772,409</u>	<u>4,038,619</u>
	Other investments other than loans	Endowment fund	Total
	€	€	€
Cost			
At 1 January 2015	3,561,235	-	3,561,235
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	103,633	-	103,633
Fair value adjustments	104,571	-	104,571
Transfers	(103,879)	-	(103,879)
Other movements	-	-	-
At 31 December 2015	<u>3,665,560</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,665,560</u>
 Provision for diminution in value			
At 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Carrying amount			
At 31 December 2015	<u>3,665,560</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,665,560</u>

Mercy International Association

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Financial year ended 31 December 2016

The endowment fund represents restricted donations and bequests relating to the long term funding of Mercy International Association. The capital element of the fund may not be used and the income is limited to the operation of the company's activities.

12. Stocks		
	2016	2015
	€	€
Finished goods and goods for resale	5,000	38,284
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>38,284</u>
13. Debtors		
	2016	2015
	€	€
Prepayments and accrued income	10,361	16,005
	<u>10,361</u>	<u>16,005</u>
14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
	2016	2015
	€	€
Accruals	34,764	32,592
Deferred income	-	332,861
	<u>34,764</u>	<u>365,453</u>

Mercy International Association

Notes to the financial statements (continued) Financial year ended 31 December 2016

15. Financial instruments

The carrying amount for each category of financial instruments is as follows:

	2016	2015
	€	€
Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss		
Unrestricted investments	3,266,210	3,665,560
Endowment fund	772,409	-
	<u>4,038,619</u>	<u>3,665,560</u>
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost		
Cash at bank and in hand	266,818	95,580
	<u>266,818</u>	<u>95,580</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Deferred revenue	-	332,861
	<u>-</u>	<u>332,861</u>

16. Reserves

- Capital contributions represent initial funding gifts from Congregations of the Sisters of Mercy toward the establishment of the company. It has three separate components:

The building at 64A, Lower Baggot Street was gifted as a reserved gift to the company by the Sisters of Mercy, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin. The estimated value of the gift in 1993 was €1,904,610. In the event of the cessation of use by the company of the premises, a decision of the company to withdraw from the premises or the winding up of the company the property shall be reconveyed to a company of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, or its successors.

Members made capital contributions towards the restoration of the Mercy International Centre at 64A Lower Baggot St of €2,982,447.

Members made capital contributions of toward funding the ongoing activities of the Mercy International Association of €2,349,041.

- Endowment reserves represent permanent endowments gifted to the company. The capital element of the endowments may not be used and the income from the endowment funds may be solely used in relation to the company's operating activities.

- The profit and loss account represents the accumulated profits of the company.

17. Controlling party

The members of the company are all members of the Sisters of Mercy.

Mercy International Association

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2016

18. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 24th February 2017.