



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.

Warm greetings from Australia to all of you gathered at Baggot Street to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the founding of Mercy International Association.

I was one of those privileged to be in Dublin in 1994 when it all started, and the memories of those days of celebration are still strong in me.

My mind retains strong, colourful images of the Chapel, of Catherine's room, of the International Room where I was seated for the ritual, of the mingling of the waters from all parts of the Mercy world. It was a special time.

These days are about remembering and celebrating the twenty years ending, but much more about heralding the beginning of the future. We are blessed to live at a time of great change, and the Mercy world too is embracing change, as indeed it must.

We do not have detailed maps, but in our Mercy heritage we have all we need to discern the right way forward; a way that will be life-giving for people of Mercy, but particularly for those among whom we are called to minister.

I want to congratulate the Board of MIA, Sister Mary Reynolds, and all who have worked with her and in the various countries to ensure that these are memorable days.

I know I will hear much from those who are attending these days, but for all of you, please take back with you to all parts of the world renewed commitment, openness and inspiration that will flourish and sustain the Mercy contribution in taking God's mission of mercy to all.

And, enjoy yourself as much as you can in these days.

Berneice Loch rsm
President MIA

24 September, 2014