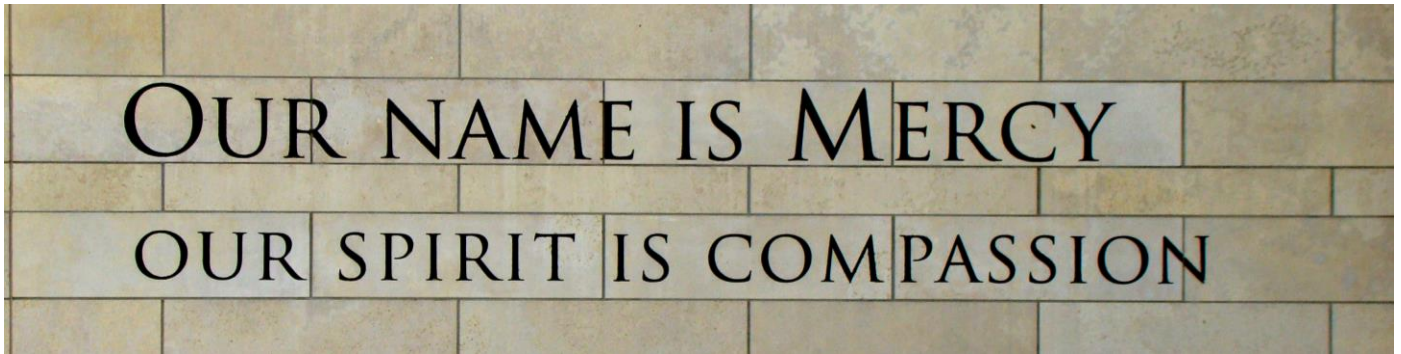


MOUNT MERCY UNIVERSITY



MOUNT MERCY UNIVERSITY:

MISSION ~~~Reflect, Engage, Serve, Live

VISION ~~~~A Catholic, Mercy University

VALUES ~~~ Lifelong learning and education
of the whole person,
~~Pursuit of truth and dignity
~~Commitment to students,
~~Justice – Gratitude –
~~Hospitality – Service

The Mount Mercy University Brand Promise

We are *the* regional Catholic, Mercy University that promises students of diverse backgrounds, ages and faiths a challenging, practical education that inspires them to discover knowledge, build community and lead courageous lives.



“The successful candidate must demonstrate a willingness to support Mount Mercy’s mission as a Catholic university providing student-focused education in the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy. Mount Mercy University welcomes those of different faiths and is committed to excellence in education and community service.”

Mount Mercy Mission Statement (Reflect, Engage, Serve, Live)

Mount Mercy is a Catholic University providing student-focused baccalaureate and graduate education in the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy. As a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, Mount Mercy welcomes women and men of all beliefs to join our community in the pursuit of baccalaureate and graduate education and service to those in need. Mount Mercy College promotes reflective judgment, strategic communication, the common good and purposeful living through a core curriculum, liberal arts and professional majors and student development programs. We strive for excellence in accomplishing our mission through our four interdependent goals:

- † **Using reflective judgment** The abilities to think clearly and carefully, argue coherently and evaluate competing truth claims critically are fundamental to a college education.¹ Reflective judgment requires a knowledge of basic fact, examination and evaluation of assumptions, adequate justification for drawing a conclusion and understanding implications of drawing that conclusion. With these skills, individuals can solve problems creatively and integrate knowledge across disciplines.
- † **Engaging in strategic communication** Strategic communication requires selecting from a range of options in order to accomplish a chosen goal in an ethical manner.² These options include construction and interpretation of messages in the written, oral and aesthetic forms using appropriate technology.
- † **Serving the common good** The common good is at the heart of Catholic social teaching. Because persons are social by nature, every individual's good relates necessarily to the common good, the sum of social conditions that allows all people to reach their human potential more fully.³ It includes respect for and ethical interaction with every person and the natural environment and, in the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy, service for the wellbeing of all humanity and action in the cause of justice in the world.
- † **Promoting purposeful living** A liberal education enables persons to achieve a greater degree of freedom upon which to act purposefully. Since development of purpose entails planning for life based on a set of priorities,⁴ Mount Mercy University provides opportunities for spiritual growth, intellectual engagement, vocational clarity, social development, physical well-being, emotional maturity and responsible community leadership.

*Approved by Board of Trustees October 29, 2005 Amended by Board of Trustees April 28, 2007
Amended by Board of Trustees August 17, 2010*

Mount Mercy Vision Statement (A Catholic, Mercy University)

Mount Mercy University will be a distinguished regional institution in the Catholic intellectual tradition and a national leader within Mercy higher education, recognized for its:

- † **Academic Life** where learning in the Mercy tradition is academically acclaimed and the university's integrated approach to the liberal arts, professional preparation and service learning creates a community and culture of free inquiry, social responsibility and purposeful living.
- † **Student Experiences** which foster a vibrant university community where a diverse student population participates in campus activities, strong residential programs, international experiences, and personal and spiritual growth in an atmosphere promoting service to the common good.
- † **Institutional Resources** with robust finances, a campus environment, and human resources to accommodate growth in quality and quantity of undergraduate and graduate students and realize the full potential and reputation of a successful small to mid-size regional university.
- † **Community Outreach** where Mount Mercy is the educational partner of choice in relationship with the business community, other educational institutions, alumni, parents, area residents, civic organizations and other local and national organizations.

Approved by Board of Trustees April 28, 2007 Amended by Board of Trustees August 17, 2010

Mount Mercy Values Statement (Lifelong learning and education of the whole person, pursuit of truth and dignity – Commitment to students, Justice – Gratitude – Hospitality – Service)

As members of the Mount Mercy University community, grounded in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy and our Catholic identity, we are committed to:

† **Lifelong learning and education of the whole person**

We believe that education is a lifelong experience where learning empowers the whole person, intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

† **Pursuit of truth and dignity**

We foster free inquiry in a compassionate culture where our dedication to faith, truth and mercy supports the dignity of each person within the human community.

† **Commitment to students**

We acknowledge and affirm that our students' needs are central to decisions that affect community life.

† **Justice**

We advocate for equality by actively creating just and healthy relationships in our learning community and in our global society.

† **Gratitude**

We celebrate with humility all gifts and talents bestowed by God and faithfully share these blessings with the wider community.

† **Hospitality**

We accomplish our work in the spirit of Catherine McAuley's graciousness and inclusion that welcomes all people and perspectives.

† **Service**

We instill a sense of responsibility and caring that calls us to serve the common good.

Approved by Board of Trustees April 28, 2007 Amended by Board of Trustees August 17, 2010

The Seal for Mount Mercy University

The seal is an adaptation of the Mercy Shield and ascribed to the foundress, Catherine McAuley.



The Seal It was designed in 1946-47 .

An open book was superimposed on the Mercy Shield and placed upon the pages

the Greek letters alpha and omega; (beginning and end)

the chi rho, symbol of Christ and

the Latin words, "Pacem et veritatem diligit" – -

- "Learn to love peace and truth".

Around the shield are two concentric circles enclosing the words

"Sigillum Universitatis Montis Misericordiae"

"Seal of Mount Mercy University".

The Mount Mercy Logo and the Mercy Cross



The Mercy cross originated with the Sisters' foundress, Catherine McAuley, and is used by Sisters of Mercy throughout the world. In the center of the large black cross is a smaller white cross—The black or dark blue signifies sacrifice and giving to others

The white or yellow signifies the glory of heaven and what can happen within us when we give ourselves to others.

There is no figure of Christ hanging on the cross because Catherine McAuley believed those who follow her in Mercy need to be as Christ was to others - curing the sick, feeding the poor & hungry and teaching all people.



Some of the Ways we live out our Mission in Mercy

Mount Mercy Mission & Ministry serves a vibrant and diverse community of people. We seek to integrate faith, life and learning within the richness of a faith community.

The Ministry Mustang

ALL ARE WELCOME! Our foundation is the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we attend to our Mercy and Catholic identity and character. We seek to discover, grow and live by Word of God in our everyday lives. We do so through study, through prayer, worship and, like Catherine McAuley, be as Christ was to others - healing the sick, educating those in need of education, and reaching out to those who were hungry/poor. There are a variety of student-generated activities that tap into people's thirst for a healthy relationship with God, others, and oneself, including Sacramental celebrations (Mass and Reconciliation), a variety of devotional (Adoration and the Rosary) and ecumenical worship services, retreats, Christian Community experiences, vocation discernment activities, service and volunteer opportunities at home and away, Bible studies, formation in social justice, and faith sharing and formation.

SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM

Sample activities:

- ✝ Mercy Critical Concern Lunch 'n' Learns
- ✝ Local service projects
 - Halloween on the Hill
 - Catherine's Tea
 - Holiday Giving Tree
 - Neighborhood Clean-Up
- ✝ Mercy & Mission Week project
- ✝ Freshman Orientation project
- ✝ Service Trips
 - Fall Break
 - Alternative Spring Break
 - End of Year (May)
 - International
- ✝ Guest Speakers
- ✝ MLK Day of Service

PEER MINISTRY (Residential & Campus)

- ✝ **Faith-Sharing**
 - Student-Led Bible Studies
 - On and Off-Campus Retreats
 - Student Mentoring
 - Faith Formation Conferences
 - Interfaith Prayer and Celebration Services
- ✝ **Liturgy**
 - Reconciliation
 - Celebration of Eucharist & Worship Services
 - Music Ministry
- ✝ **Service**
 - Service Trips
 - Local Service Projects
 - Advocacy for Social Justice Concerns

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Celebration of the Eucharist is open to all:

- ✝ **Sunday Night Mass – Chapel of Mercy**
8:30 PM; Chapel of Mercy
(7:30-8:30 PM Music Ministry rehearsal)
- ✝ **Daily Mass- Chapel of Mercy in Busse**
11:45 AM - Monday
3:30 PM – Tuesday
8:30 PM – Wednesday
11:45 AM – Thursday & Friday
- Holy Days of Obligation
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Adult Formation
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
- Student Led Retreats

CAMPUS MINISTRY SPONSORED EVENTS

Campus Ministry sponsors campus-wide events and activities that help Mount Mercy students, staff and faculty celebrate their faith traditions, encourage community diversity, and enjoy the rich heritage of the Sisters of Mercy. Annual activities include:

- ✝ **Celebrations & Worship**
 - Mercy & Mission Week
 - Antioch Retreat
 - Christmas Club Friday
 - Jewish Passover Seder - style meal
 - Holiday parties
 - Special Services
 - Room Blessings
 - Busy Person's Retreat
 - Interfaith Services
 - Music Ministry & Handbell Choir events

The mission of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education is the preservation and development of the core Catholic identity and mission of Mercy higher education in accord with the spirit, mission, and heritage of the Sisters of Mercy.

The CMHE Board's primary goals are to ascertain the strength of the Catholic identity and Mercy mission at each of its 17 member institutions in addition to acting on the reserved powers as identified and required within each institution's bylaws.

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Following are links to the Conference for Mercy Higher Education member institutions:

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 1. Carlow University | www.carlow.edu | Pittsburgh, PA |
| 2. College of Saint Mary | www.csm.edu | Omaha, NE |
| 3. Georgian Court University | www.georgian.edu | Lakewood, NJ |
| 4. Gwynedd-Mercy College | www.gmc.edu | Gwynedd Valley, PA |
| 5. Maria College | www.mariacollege.edu | Albany, NY |
| 6. Mercyhurst College | www.mercyhurst.edu | Erie, PA |
| 7. Misericordia University | www.misericordia.edu | Dallas, PA |
| 8. Mount Aloysius College | www.mtaloy.edu | Cresson, PA |
| 9. Mount Mercy University | www.mtmercy.edu | Cedar Rapids, IA |
| 10. Saint Joseph College, Connecticut | www.sjc.edu | West Hartford, CT |
| 11. Saint Joseph's College of Maine | www.sjcme.edu | Standish, ME |
| 12. Salve Regina University | www.salve.edu | Newport, RI |
| 13. Saint Xavier University | www.sxu.edu | Chicago, IL |
| 14. Trocaire College | www.trocaire.edu | Buffalo, NY |
| 15. University of Detroit Mercy | www.udmercy.edu | Detroit, MI |
| 16. ** Associate Member
Mercy College of Health Sciences | www.mchs.edu | Des Moines, IA |

STATEMENT ON CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MERCY CHARISM FOR CMHE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas recognizes that higher education is integral to the mission of the Church and is an effective expression of our Mercy mission. The ministry expresses our commitment to the pursuit of truth and knowledge and to the furtherance of the social, political, economic, and spiritual well-being of the human community. We encourage collaboration among Mercy institutions, regional communities and sisters in ministry.

--Institute Leadership Conference, *Statement on Mercy Higher Education*, 1993

OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND MERCY CHARISM

A Mercy institution of higher education stands within the lineage of the Catholic intellectual tradition in its pursuit of truth and integration of knowledge for the common good. It participates in the Church's mission under the sponsorship of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas through the ministry of education, giving tangible evidence to its mission through ongoing teaching, scholarship and service. It demonstrates the values of mercy, justice and compassion as communicated through the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy. These common characteristics are uniquely given expression within each campus community.

Graduates of Mercy institutions are informed and shaped intellectually, socially and spiritually through a faith-inspired education. The academic study of the liberal arts and sciences and mastery of the professional disciplines enable Mercy graduates to be responsible leaders in their communities and professions. They appreciate and are informed by a Christian commitment to mercy and justice in the world. The living tradition of a Mercy college or university is sustained by a strong collegial community, with hospitality to new ideas and energies, and through collaboration within the Conference for Mercy Higher Education.

*Statement approved by the CMHE Board April 20, 2010,
and by the Canonical Sponsor Council April 26, 2010*

Related readings accessible through <http://www.mercyhighered.org>

- "McAuley and Newman," Dr. Maureen Scott, RSM
- "Tender Courage," Sister M. Joanna Regan, R.S.M.
- "Charisms, Congregational Sponsors, and Catholic Higher Education," Susan M. Sanders, R.S.M., Ph.D.
- "The Conference for Mercy Higher Education: One Congregation's Choice for Preserving Its Charism,"
Sheila Carney, R.S.M.
- "Stepping up to Catherine McAuley's dance called 'Right and Left' - Higher Education and Service-learning, Mercy Style," Maureen Crossen, Carlow College, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- The Directions Statements of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- The Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- CMHE: Talking Points on Sponsorship
- "The Role of Higher Education in the Mission of the Sisters of Mercy and the Catholic Church,"
Mary Aquin O'Neill, RSM, PhD
- "Mercy Higher Education: Culture and Characteristics," Maryanne Stevens, RSM, PhD
- "Catherine McAuley and the Characteristics of Mercy Higher Education," Mary C. Sullivan, RSM, PhD
- "Wisdom, Dignity, and Justice: Education as a Work of Mercy," Margaret Farley, RSM, PhD
- "Mercy Spirituality, the Foundation for Compassionate Service," Sister Leona Misto, EdD
- *Ex corde Ecclesiae*

CONFERENCE *for* MERCY HIGHER EDUCATION

--a brief history and description

The Sisters of Mercy constitute the largest community of religious women in the Roman Catholic Church. Founded in Dublin, Ireland in 1831 by **Mother Catherine McAuley**, the sisters sought “to care for the poor, the sick, and the uneducated.” Over the following century, the “walking nuns,” as they were called, journeyed to various continents around the world, establishing networks of healthcare facilities and schools ranging from elementary through the college and graduate levels.

Until a short memory ago, the Mercy colleges and universities in the US were led, managed, and staffed in majority by Sisters of Mercy. As the number of religious sisters has declined sharply over the past 40 years, the Sisters have addressed the dilemma of sustaining the values they imparted through their vast educational system. In 2002, they established the **Conference for Mercy Higher Education (CMHE)** to reinforce the bonds of Mercy traditions and to strengthen the Catholic identity and Mercy charism at all colleges and universities well into the future.

The Conference is located at the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy offices in Silver Spring, Maryland. Staffed by a full-time Executive Director (Moya Dittmeier) and an assistant (Rita Waters, RSM), CMHE is a national organization bringing 17 Mercy colleges and universities into a common network and providing oversight for the **sponsorship** relationship between the Sisters of Mercy and the institutions they have so lovingly founded and supported.

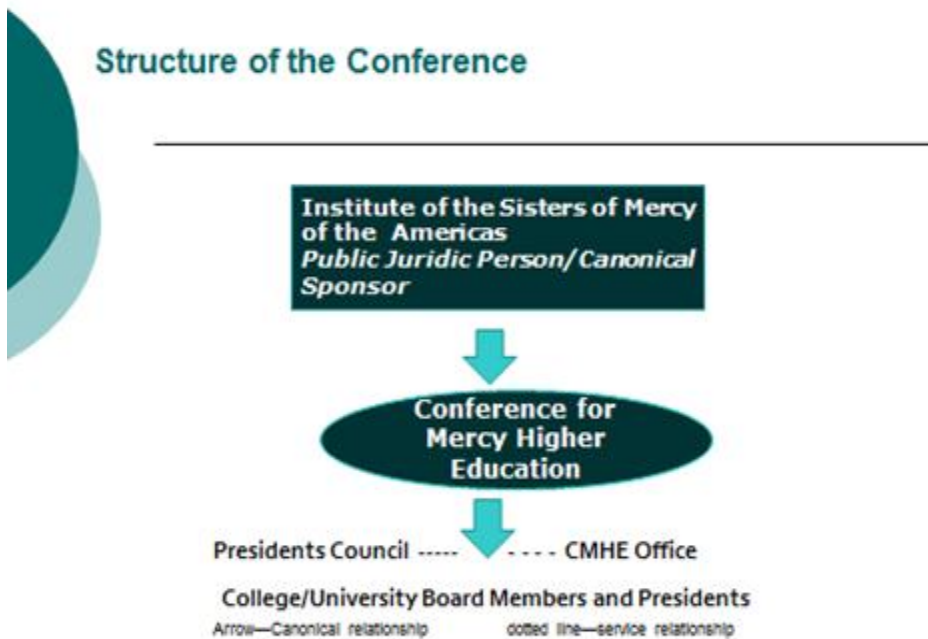
The Conference’s relationship to its 17 member institutions (16 full members and one associate member) is unique and based upon relationships that previously existed on a more local level before the consolidation of communities nation-wide. In most instances, the Conference functions as the Member of the Corporation, with the corresponding **reserved powers**. CMHE approves the appointments of presidents and members of the local institutional boards, as well as all changes to the mission and philosophy of the institution. The Conference also has the responsibility to approve borrowing in excess of \$5.7 million at most of our institutions. We have an indult from the Vatican for a debt ceiling (collective indebtedness of all sponsored members) of \$500 million.

In addition to the reserved powers and issues of sponsorship, the Conference has offered and is further developing mission-related programs. Students attended four-day programs at the UN (“**Mercy Meets the UN**”) in 2009, 2011 and 2014); a **DC Justice Immersion** program was held in May 2012 for 41 students from nine participating colleges and universities and the program is now in planning for August 2015. Since 2007, three symposia around issues related to Catholic, Mercy higher education have been held at various campuses, and a **mission program** for senior leaders and board members has been developed and offered. In addition, a decennial **mission peer review process** for each of our institutions is underway, with three reviews now having been conducted since fall 2012. Recently, the Presidents Council engaged a research firm to study and determine the distinctive characteristics shared among our Mercy colleges and universities. In addition to these activities, a “dashboard” of indicators of the financial health of our institutions is now

completed annually; these “dashboards,” integral to our decision and approvals processes, will be shared annually with the CMHE Board.

The **structure** of CMHE:

Effective in June 2014 and to streamline the work of CMHE, the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy has delegated the sponsorship function and related responsibilities to the CMHE Board (11 board members). In past years, these responsibilities were delegated to the Sponsor Council who oversaw the work of the CMHE Board. The Board’s primary goals are to ascertain the strength of the Catholic identity and Mercy mission at each institution in addition to acting on the reserved powers as needed and required. The CMHE Board meets annually with the Sponsor Council and the Presidents Council. Two members of the Presidents Council serve as *ex officio* members of the CMHE Board.



The Conference is funded by **three revenue streams**—sponsorship fees from the colleges and universities, the Sisters of Mercy’s annual contribution, and grants and gifts in support of programs.

There is an increasing sense among our CMHE Board members as well as the Presidents and Sponsors that the Conference is **maturing in its efforts** and taking steps to realize the goals for which it was founded. A strategic planning process is underway as we seek to clarify boundaries and responsibilities for CMHE vis-à-vis the member institutions. CMHE exists to ensure that the interests, concerns and spirit of the Sisters of Mercy are preserved and strengthened at each institution, and that the future of each college and university as a Mercy ministry is secure.

January 2015



THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY ARE:

- *Instruct the ignorant;*
- *Counsel the doubtful;*
- *Convert the sinner;*
- *Bear wrongs patiently;*
- *Forgive all injuries;*
- *Comfort the sorrowful;*
- *Pray for the living and the dead.*

THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY ARE:

- *Feed the hungry;*
- *Give drink to the thirsty;*
- *Clothe the naked;*
- *Shelter the homeless;*
- *Visit the sick;*
- *Visit the imprisoned;*
- *Bury the dead*

(Based on Matthew 25:31-45, Christian tradition and teachings)



Sisters of Mercy are an international community of Roman Catholic women religious vowed to serve people who suffer from poverty, sickness and are in need of education with a special concern for women and children. - <http://www.sistersofmercy.org/>

Sisters of Mercy ~ Our Mission

Sisters of Mercy are women who commit their lives to God, deepening their relationship with God and serving God's people, especially those who are sick, poor and uneducated. In the spirit of the Gospel, our mission is to help people to overcome the obstacles that keep them from living full and dignified lives. A life of prayer and community is at the heart of our shared mission.

Sisters of Mercy ~Direction Statement:

Animated by the Gospel and Catherine McAuley's passion for the poor, we, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, are impelled to commit our lives and resources to act in solidarity with

- *the economically poor of the world, especially women and children;*
- *women seeking fullness of life and equality in church and society;*
- *one another as we embrace our multicultural and international reality.*

This commitment will impel us to

- *develop and act from a multicultural and international perspective;*
- *speak with a corporate voice;*
- *work for systemic change;*
- *practice non-violence;*
- *act in harmony and interdependence with all creation; and*
- *call ourselves to continual conversion in our lifestyle and ministries.*



The Critical Concerns named by the Sisters of Mercy.

http://www.sistersofmercy.org/index.php?option=com_content&ask=blogcategory&id=64&Itemid=80

We, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, agonize over the sufferings of our sisters and brothers around the world and for Earth herself. We acknowledge our involvement in this global suffering and embrace our need for personal conversion even as we work with others to transform unjust systems and exploitative patterns of behavior. We undertake the work of justice in the light of Catholic social teaching and our Constitutions, [Direction Statement](#), and especially our Critical Concerns:

EARTH...

To reverence earth and work more effectively toward the sustainability of life and toward universal recognition of the fundamental right to water.

IMMIGRATION/MIGRATION/HUMAN TRAFFICKING

To reverence the dignity of each person;

To create a spirit of hospitality for immigrants and refugees;

To stand in solidarity with immigrants, refugees and trafficked persons.

NON VIOLENCE.

To deepen and assimilate more consciously the practice of non-violence as an integral aspect of the charism of mercy.

POVERTY

Act in solidarity with the economically poor of the world, especially women and children and to engaging in volunteer work with and for persons who are poor as well as social analysis, advocacy and efforts to bring about systemic change.

RACISM

To oppose racism and work to develop a multicultural perspective that deepens our response to the unrecognized racism past and present.

WOMEN

Understand and participate in Catherine McAuley's special concern for women by working toward efforts that ensure the safety of women and children, celebrate the gifts and contributions of women, advocate for women's rights, and work against gender discrimination and towards the welfare and education for women.



Sisters of Mercy CRITICAL CONCERNS

The Sisters of Mercy were founded out of a deep concern for the needs of persons who are poor. Today, we focus our ministry on those needs identified through our "critical concerns." We address these concerns through prayer; our own communal life as a religious congregation; education; advocacy with legislators and other leaders; and corporate engagement.

Immigration



Believing firmly in the dignity of every person, we work for just and humane immigration laws in the U.S., address policies that push people to flee their countries, and examine the global impact of immigration.

Earth



We believe in the need for sustainability of life, supporting both a lifestyle and legislation that acknowledge everyone's right to water and the need to address climate change.



Racism

We believe racism is an evil affecting us all. We work to recognize and dismantle institutional racism in order to become an anti-racist multicultural community.



Nonviolence



We work for peace through prayer, education, personal and communal practices of nonviolence, and legislative advocacy to reduce armed conflicts, gun violence and human rights abuses.

Women



Through our schools, colleges, health-care institutions and spirituality centers, and through our legislative advocacy, we give special attention to women's education, health and spirituality.

Sisters of Mercy in the Roman Catholic Church, take Four Vows:

Poverty

Legally own nothing and all is shared and held in a common pot. The common pot is primarily used to support ministry to the poor, sick & uneducated and to work toward systemic change!

Chastity

God and Service to others are the primary relationships and therefore Sisters do not marry.

Obedience

Practice and discipline in listening to the will of God and discerning it through prayer, conversation within Community through leaders, members and those who journey with us in our Spiritual life.

Service

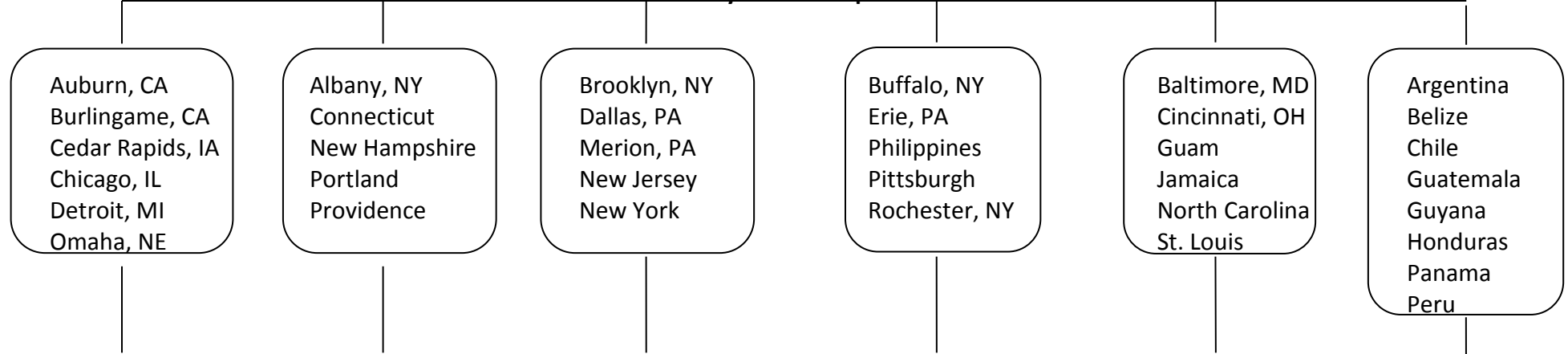
To the
Poor,
Sick
Uneducated

**Sisters of Mercy Founded ~ Dublin Ireland 1831
By Mother Catherine McAuley**

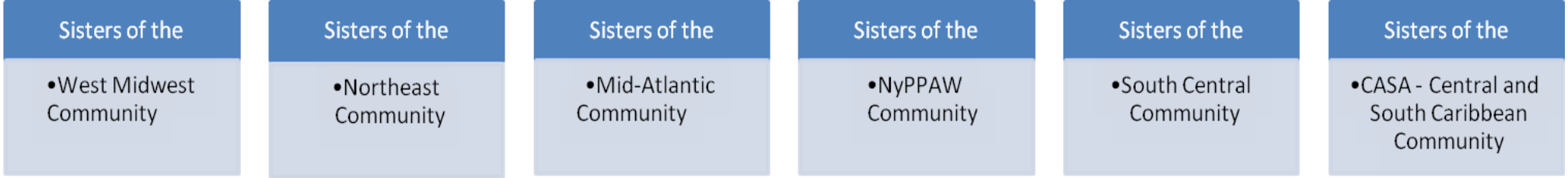
Irish Foundations that formed United States Sister of Mercy Communities-
Carlow (1843) Ennis (1879) Dublin (1846) Kinsale (1854) Naas (1851)

**Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
(formed in 1991)**

The Institute is formed by these independent Communities of Sisters



These 36 groups listed above formed six communities of Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and was completed in 2008



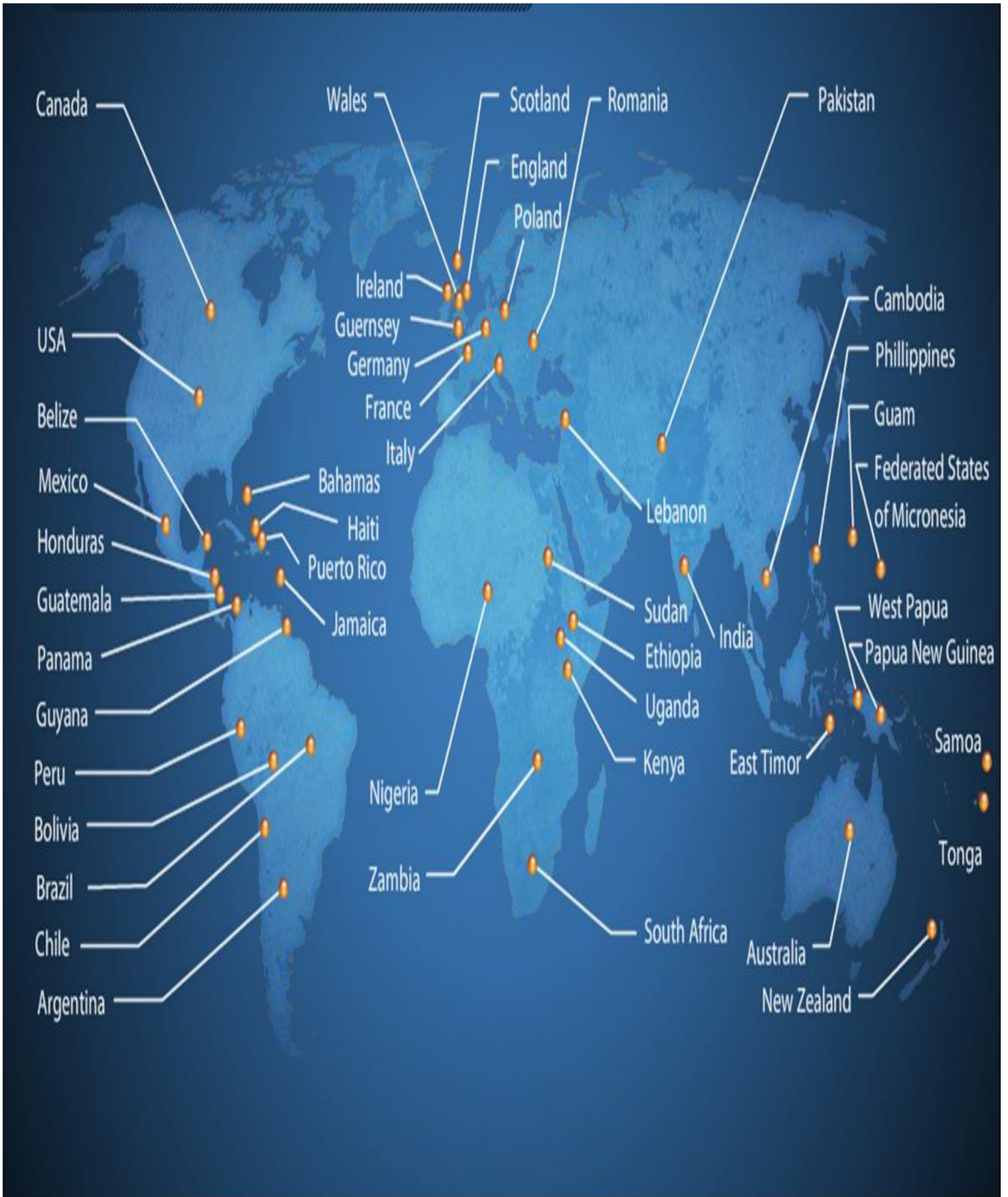
The structure of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas since 2009

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Beginnings and Current Organizational Structure

**The Sisters of Mercy today around the world come out of these Foundations:
 Philippines New Zealand Newfoundland Great Britain Ireland Australia The Americas**

CONFERENCE *for* MERCY HIGHER EDUCATION





WEST MIDWEST COMMUNITY

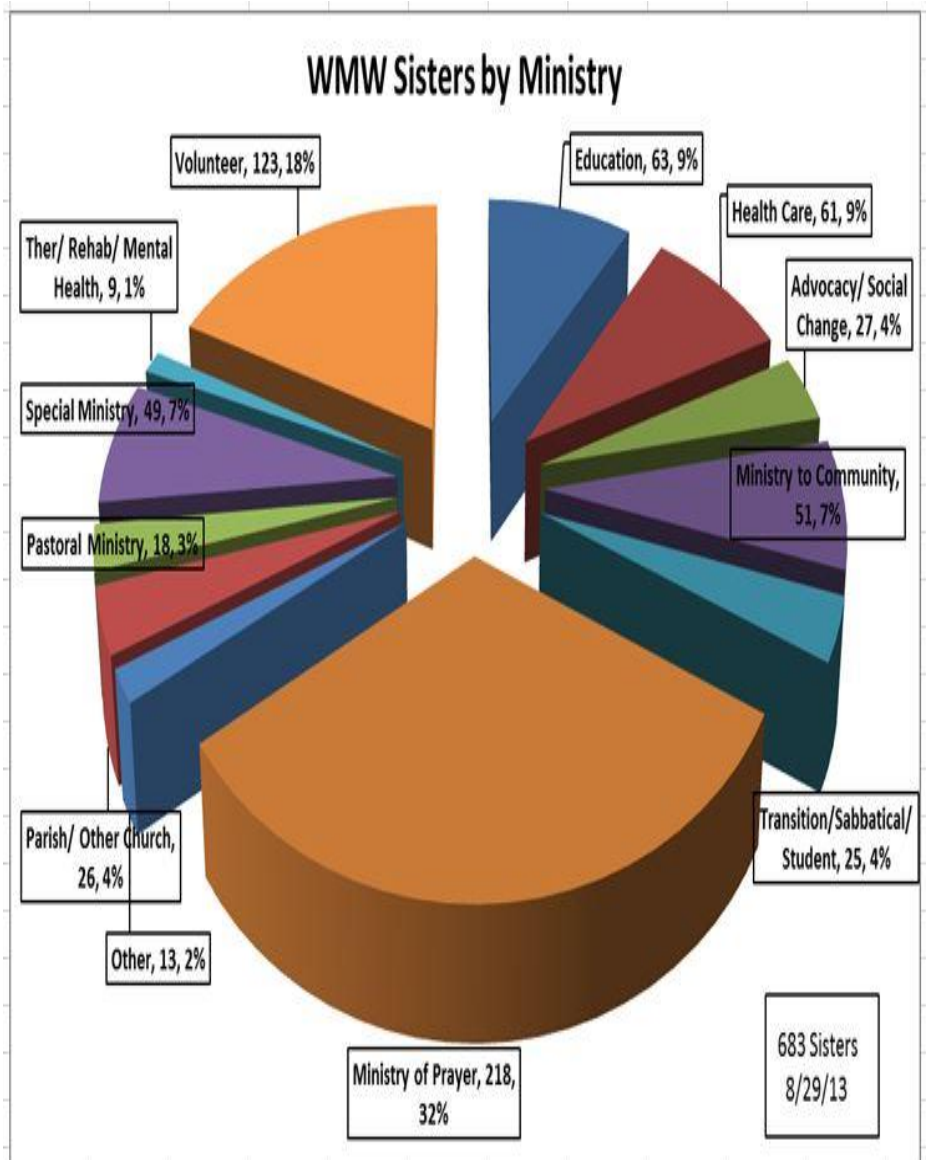
On July 1, 2008, **Sisters of Mercy** from six regional communities came together to form a new Community. On that day, Sisters of Mercy in Auburn, CA; Burlingame, CA; Cedar Rapids, IA; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; and Omaha, NE, became the **Sisters of Mercy - West Midwest Community**. A new leadership team, consisting of one sister from each former regional community, was elected in March of 2008. Omaha serves as the central administrative site for the WMW Community; however, there continues to be facilities with Sisters and staff at each of the former regional sites. In addition, WMW Sisters minister in 30 states and 5 countries.

History: In 1991, 25 regional communities came together to form the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. As stated in our Institute's founding document, we became one to "strengthen and enable one another in mission." With this same goal, those 25 regional communities came together to form six Communities within our Institute.

The Northeast became one Community on July 1, 2006. The Mid-Atlantic formed on January 1, 2007. The NyPPaW (New York, Philippines, Pennsylvania West) Community came together on January 1, 2008. The West Midwest formed July 1, 2008, and South Central on September 1, 2008. The CCASA (Caribbean, Central America and South America) Community formed July 1, 2009.

The West Midwest Community is part of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, an international community of Roman Catholic women religious vowed to serve people who suffer from poverty, sickness and lack of education, with a special concern for women and children. In innovative and traditional ways, the Sisters of Mercy address human needs through collaborative efforts in education, health care, housing, pastoral and social services, and advocacy.

Percentage of Sisters of Mercy in Each Ministry
2013



Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- West Midwest Community

Office Locations

**Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
West Midwest Community**
7262 Mercy Road
Omaha, Nebraska 68124-2312
(402) 393-8225
www.mercywestmidwest.org

Auburn
535 Sacramento St.
Auburn, CA 95603-5699
(530) 887-2000

Burlingame
2300 Adeline Dr.
Burlingame, CA 94010-5599
(650) 340-7410

Cedar Rapids
1125 Prairie Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-4730
(319) 364-5196

Chicago
10024 S. Central Park Ave.
Chicago, IL 60655
(773) 779-6011

Detroit
29000 W Eleven Mile Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1405
(248) 476-8000

**Institute of the Sisters of Mercy
of the Americas**
8380 Colesville Road, #300
Silver Spring, MD 20910-6264
(301) 587-0423
www.sistersofmercy.org

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- West Midwest Community

Sponsored/Co-Sponsored Ministries

Foundations

Mercy Foundation (Sacramento, CA)
Mercy Foundation North (Redding, CA)

Education

Catherine McAuley Center Literacy Program (Cedar Rapids, IA)
Cristo Rey High School (Sacramento, CA)
Mercy Education Resource Center (Auburn, CA)
Mercy Education Project (Detroit, MI)
Mercy High School (Burlingame, CA)
Mercy High School (Farmington Hills, MI)
Mercy High School (Omaha, NE)
Mercy High School (San Francisco, CA)
Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School (Chicago, IL)

Conference for Mercy Higher Education

College of Saint Mary (Omaha, NE)
Mount Mercy University (Cedar Rapids, IA)
Saint Xavier University (Chicago, IL)
University of Detroit Mercy (Detroit, MI)
Mercy College of Health Sciences (Des Moines, IA)

Healthcare

Catholic Health Initiatives (Englewood, CO)
Catholic Health Ministries / Trinity Health (Novi, MI)
Mercy Hospitals within Dignity Health [*former Catholic Healthcare West*] (San Francisco, CA)
Mercy Hospital (Iowa City, IA)
Mercy Medical Center (Cedar Rapids, IA)
Presence Health [*former Provena Health*] (Mokena, IL)
Scripps Mercy Hospital (San Diego, CA)
Scripps Mercy Hospital (Chula Vista, CA)

Housing

Catherine McAuley Center (Cedar Rapids, IA)
Mercy Housing, Inc. (Denver, CO)
St. Catherine Residence (Milwaukee, WI)

Long-Term Care

Elder Care Alliance (Oakland, CA)
Mercy Circle (Chicago)

Spirituality/Retreat Centers

Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center (Waterloo, NE)
Mercy Center (Auburn, CA)
Mercy Center (Burlingame, CA)

Note: City in parentheses indicates location of main office. Some ministries, such as healthcare systems, may have multiple locations.

*Sisters of Mercy
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
July 1875 to
June 30, 2008*

**Our Spirit ~ Our Story
.....Cedar Rapids**

S I S T E R S O F M E R C Y O F T H E A M E R I C A S : W E S T

Our History

The first Sisters of Mercy came to Cedar Rapids from the Iowa towns of Davenport and Independence, where communities had been established in 1869 by sisters from Chicago.

Three sisters, Mary Isadore O'Connor, Mary Boniface Daly and Mary Gertrude McCullough*, came to Cedar Rapids from Independence on July 22, 1875, and four more came from Davenport two weeks later, in response to a request for teachers for the new St. Joseph Academy, a boarding school for girls and a parochial day school. The only transportation to the town was by steamboat or rail, with rail being the mode from Independence, making for a hot, dusty and tiring journey.

The academy was to be housed in a new building near the commercial center of the city. When the sisters arrived the building was not only unfurnished, but unfinished! Upon viewing the building, one sister is said to have exclaimed, "The windows are not in!" Another playfully replied, "Well, we won't have to wash any windows today."

**The first elected superior was Sister M. Agatha Mullany; M. Gertrude was her assistant and later, a superior.*



Eager to get the building ready for the school year, the sisters rolled up their sleeves to help the carpenters finish the building, laying floors and installing windows. In addition to the academy, the building would also serve as the convent and novitiate for the next 30 years.

As early as 1894, the sisters opened their first hospital, which was located in the rural Iowa community of Anamosa. In 1900, because the only hospital in Cedar Rapids was consistently filled beyond its capacity, the sisters opened a 15-bed hospital in a converted house.

Response from the citizens was overwhelming and by 1903, after much scrambling for funds, the sisters moved Mercy Hospital to a brand new building with 100 patient beds and the most advanced technology of the day.

Facts and Figures *as of March 2008*

Our Community

- 75 Sisters
- 81 Associates

Locations of our Ministries

- Iowa
- Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Washington DC, Peru

Ministry profile

- Advocacy/Social Change
- Education
- Vocations
- Healthcare, Elder Care, Health Care System
- Housing
- Ministry of Presence
- Ministry to Regional Community
- Prayer Ministry/Visiting of the Sick
- Parish and/or Pastoral Ministry
- Retired
- Social Services
- Special Ministry
- Sponsored Ministry Volunteer
- Therapeutic/Rehab

Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Works

- Mercy Medical Center
- Mount Mercy College
- Catherine McAuley Center
- House of Mercy
- Mercy Housing, Inc.

A year later they welcomed their first class of students to the Mercy School of Nursing. They later added schools of Medical Technology and Radiology.

By 1906, their convent, novitiate and school were all bursting at the seams and the search began for a larger site. Eventually, the sisters located and leased the Judge Greene mansion, which was then beyond the city limits.

Over the years, the property had at times been home to three shady horse thieves, an alleged counterfeiter, and finally, a Supreme Court judge. Judge George Greene was responsible for having the mansion built and was the first legally recognized owner of the property, the others being considered squatters.

The mansion had been vacant for about ten years, used only as an occasional shelter by hunters, with the ballroom being used for grain storage. After signing a lease, the sisters once again rolled up their sleeves to lovingly prepare the mansion for their motherhouse, novitiate and the fall opening of their girl's boarding school, Sacred Heart Academy. St. Joseph Academy would continue to operate in its original location as a day school.

It is interesting to note that the sisters' closest neighbors were so far away, that when the sisters were out picking strawberries from the farm berry beds, dressed in their black and white habits, the neighbors were later heard to comment on the nice looking

herd of Holsteins they saw grazing at the farm.

The year 1906 was busy as the sisters also opened St. Berchman's Seminary in Marion, Iowa. Originally planned as a day school for boys and girls, by 1915 it was exclusively a boy's boarding school, which it remained until closing in 1942.

The farsighted leadership of the Cedar Rapids Sisters of Mercy elected to buy the Greene property in 1907. Future years saw remarkable growth in Sacred Heart Academy boarding school for girls, as it became Mount Mercy Academy in 1924, a junior college in 1928, a four-year college in 1960, and went co-ed in 1969.

Although it would seem the Cedar Rapids sisters were busy enough in the early 20th century, in their spare time they also managed to build, furnish, open, staff and operate hospitals in Oelwein, Iowa and Kalispell, Montana.

Since their arrival in Cedar Rapids, the Mercys were dedicated to the education of the young. Over the years, they taught and served as administrators in many Iowa parochial elementary and high schools: a total of six different schools in Cedar Rapids; two in Marion; three in Waterloo; and in 13 other rural districts. Edina, Minnesota, and Kalispell, Montana were also blessed with their teaching ministries.

From 1964 to 1969 the sisters operated St. Ann's Home, a residence for single expectant young women. The radical changes in social attitudes that swept the country in the 1960s ultimately made St. Ann's superfluous.

One of their newer sponsored ministries is the Catherine McAuley Center, established in 1989. The Center offers transitional housing for women without children. They also provide free tutoring in basic skills and language for men and women. Many of the clients now seeking tutoring are new immigrants to the United States. CR Mercys dedicated a House of Mercy in Waterloo, Iowa in late 2003; are co-sponsors of Mercy Housing, Inc.

Through the years, the sisters divested themselves from their involvement with all of the rural hospitals. Day-to-day operations/management of Mercy Medical Center, Mount Mercy College and the Catherine McAuley Center have been turned over to each organization's Board of Trustees. A true continuity of the Mercy mission is maintained by having sisters serving on each board at all times. A director of Mission Integration, who is liaison for all three sponsored ministries, also ensures that Mercy values will remain the primary focus at each of the sponsored ministries.

**Cedar Rapids
Sisters of Mercy of the
West MidWest**

KEY PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Human Dignity

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the person is at the core of a moral vision for society. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.

Community and the Common Good

In a global culture driven by excessive individualism, our tradition proclaims that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Our Church teaches that the role of the government and other institutions is to protect human life and human dignity and promote the common good.

Rights and Responsibilities

Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities -- to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt. 25) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

Participation

All people have a right to participate in the economic, political, and cultural life of society. It is a fundamental demand of justice and a requirement for human dignity that all people be assured a minimum level of participation in the community. Conversely, it is wrong for a person or a group to be excluded unfairly or to be unable to participate in society. In the words of the U.S. bishops, "The ultimate injustice is for a person or group to be treated actively or abandoned passively as if they were non-members of the human race. To treat people this way is effectively to say they simply do not count as human beings."

Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

In a marketplace where too often the quarterly bottom line takes precedence over the rights of workers, we believe that the economy must serve people, not the other way around. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected -- the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property and to economic initiative.

Stewardship of Creation

Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions which cannot be ignored.

Solidarity

Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Solidarity means that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

Role of Government

Because we are social beings, the state is natural to the person. Therefore, the state has a positive moral function. It is an instrument to promote human dignity, protect human rights, and build the common good. Its purpose is to assist citizens in fulfilling their responsibility to others in society. Since, in a large and complex society these responsibilities cannot adequately be carried out on a one-to-one basis, citizens need the help of government in fulfilling these responsibilities and promoting the common good. According to the principle of subsidiarity, the functions of government should be performed at the lowest level possible, as long as they can be performed adequately. If they cannot, then a higher level of government should intervene to provide help.

Promotion of Peace

Catholic teaching promotes peace as a positive, action-oriented concept. In the words of Pope John Paul II, "Peace is not just the absence of war. It involves mutual respect and confidence between peoples and nations. It involves collaboration and binding agreements." There is a close relationship in Catholic teaching between peace and justice. Peace is the fruit of justice and is dependent upon right order among human beings.

Office for Social Justice, a division of Catholic Charities
328 West Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 291-4477 www.osjspm.org

SEVEN THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.

Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our **stewardship of creation**. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. **Marriage and the family** are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to **participate in society**, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental **right to life** and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The **economy must serve people**, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are **one human family** whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has **global dimensions** in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice.¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Mercy References:

You Tube and Catherine McAuley

The Circle of Mercy – Part 1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-NVG5XH35w>

An eleven (11) minute story of the Catherine McAuley's Life up to the opening of the House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland

The Circle of Mercy – Part 2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pol6uPJNOs>

An eleven (11) minute story of the Catherine McAuley's Life After she opened the House of Mercy and Founded the Sisters of Mercy

The Many images of Catherine McAuley

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDaAJxhF4PU&feature=>

A six minute video of all the images created of Catherine McAuley. We have no actual portrait of Catherine, all images are created through written descriptions of her and her life

Web Pages:

Sisters of Mercy of the America's

<http://www.sistersofmercy.org/>

Sisters of Mercy West Midwest

<http://www.mercywestmidwest.org/>

Sisters of Mercy International

<http://www.mercyinternational.ie/>

<http://mercyworld.org>

Conference for Mercy Higher Education

<http://www.mercyhighered.org/index.html>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.usccb.org/>

Archdiocese of Dubuque

<http://www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us/home.html>