



Mercy Global Presence – our place in the world

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Recent issues of this monthly reflection have been inward-focused, exploring the Statement of Purpose which has been developed for Whānau Mercy Ministries, our soon-to-be established Public Juridic Person (PJP). The invitation this month is to look beyond ourselves and our own shores, to reflect a little on what it means to be part of a Global Mercy Presence. The call came in 2018 from Mercy International Association (MIA) with the publication of a new vision statement in eight languages, including Māori, Samoan and Tongan, inviting us to model a world of welcome and inclusion through ministries that make God’s mercy present and active across the whole of creation.



Image © Mercy International Association.

Mercy Global Presence, involving people from across the world in the more than 40 countries where Sisters of Mercy live and work, has focussed on ‘the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.’ The process links congregations, individual Sisters of Mercy and their associates, partners and companions and MIA in creative and energising ways. A two-year digital programme has unfolded, with a new theme each month, inviting responses from a wide range of voices that have included theologians and artists, those working in grassroots ministry or engaged in reflective prayer and creative writing.

Representing Aotearoa New Zealand has been Judith Moroney rsm, a member of her Congregation’s Leadership Team, supported by Jeanette Mathers rsm and, more recently, Paula Anamani rsm. “We have had both creative and challenging contributions from sisters and companions for many of the resources that are part of the programme,” Judith reports. “Each country has its own justice issues, and globally we share many of these concerns.

“Covid-19 has encouraged some creative use of technology to foster participation,” says Judith. “An example was the formation of online regional reflection meetings which provided rich sharing times. The resources remain online and offer valuable insights for reflection and exploration.” (See website www.mercyworld.org/about/our-initiatives/mercy-global-presence/ for details)

The two-year programme has almost finished, but Mercy Global Presence and its vision continue. Later this year there will be an ‘Opening Doors to an Emerging Future’, hosted by MIA with an invitation to all who feel called to imagine future possibilities on a journey of emergence. “The four-day process will allow engagement in intentional dialogue, as we envision the third century of Mercy,” says Judith Moroney. (For more see <https://www.mercyworld.org/newsroom/mercy-week-2021-generative-dialogue-you-re-invited/>)

“The future is emerging, and we need the Mercy world to be part of this unfolding,” says Judith. “We can share our rich diversity, our creativity and our outreach as we explore new ways of being a united Mercy presence across our world, at both the local and global levels.”

MERCY GLOBAL PRESENCE: At the centre of the logo are the red doors of Baggot Street, the house built by Catherine McAuley as a centre of compassion for those most in need. The 12 Congregations that form Mercy International Association are represented in the rays that radiate from and return to Baggot Street. The 40-plus countries where Sisters of Mercy and their partners in mission now work are represented by the circle that evokes both our global commitment and the Earth, our common home. The colours capture the blue of water and sky, the green of plants and trees, and the brown of land, from which new life grows.