



PILGRIMAGE OF YOUNG MERCY LEADERS

for Secondary School Students

Tuesday 18th July – Friday 21st July 2017

INFORMATION SHEET

Programme Description

Students from Mercy secondary schools will travel to Mercy International Association 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. Participants will emerge with a deeper appreciation of our Mercy tradition – past, present and future.

- **Past:** As they explore Mercy International Centre, pilgrims will hear the story of Catherine McAuley anew in the House she founded. They will learn about her spirituality and grow in understanding of the rich heritage of the Sisters of Mercy.
- **Present:** Pilgrims will gain a profound sense of the Mercy spirit alive today. They will be challenged by engaging speakers and will encounter the Mercy charism in the diversity of their fellow delegates.
- **Future:** As they reflect on their experiences in Dublin, pilgrims will come to know themselves as Mercy leaders. They will return home emboldened to strive for justice and Mercy, with the courage that Catherine demonstrated.

Programme Content

Students will be able to spend time in Catherine's original foundation house: praying in the chapel she built, walking across the floorboards of the room where she died, and exploring the heritage treasures housed at Mercy International Centre. There will be keynote addresses on Mercy leadership and a global perspective on mercy mission, and a variety of workshops and discussions. Workshop themes include: discerning life choices; global Mercy mission; Mercy at the UN; opposing human trafficking; Catherine's humour and spirituality; mindfulness; environmental sustainability. Social opportunities with Mercy students from around the world will abound, and will include a talent show and a pizza party and social.

Programme Schedule

Date	Begin Time	End Time	Meals Included
Tuesday, 18 th July	10:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.	light lunch & afternoon snack
Wednesday, 19 th July	9:15 a.m.	8:00 p.m.	morning & afternoon snacks; midday dinner; light evening meal
Thursday, 20 th July	9:15 a.m.	8:00 p.m.	morning & afternoon snacks; midday dinner; light evening meal
Friday, 21 st July	9:15 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	morning & afternoon snacks; light lunch

Location of Pilgrimage

The Pilgrimage will be held on Mercy property associated with Lower Baggot Street, incorporating three buildings: (1) Mercy International Centre (64a Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, www.mercyworld.ie), the original house built by Catherine McAuley; (2) Catherine McAuley Centre (23 Herbert Street, Dublin 2), the building adjacent to Mercy International Centre on a historic site where Catherine purpose built a second building for ministry (that building no longer stands and the current building owned by the Congregation of Sisters of Mercy Ireland opened in 1998); and (3) Scoil Chaitriona (59 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, www.scoilchaitrionabaggotstreet.ie), a primary school on the historic site where Catherine opened a teacher training college.

Accommodation

Delegations are responsible for securing their own accommodation. Hotels and hostels in City Centre are accessible to Mercy International Centre (MIC) by Dublin Bus or up to 3 km (less than 2 miles) walk. A recommended City Centre hostel is Abigail's Hostel (www.abigailshostel.com). Hotels in close proximity to MIC include Lansdowne Hotel (www.lansdownehotel.ie); Mespil Hotel (www.mespilhotel.com); and Schoolhouse Hotel (www.schoolhousehotel.com). Clayton Hotel Burlington Road (www.claytonhotelburlingtonroad.com) is 1 km (0.6 miles) away and Sandymount Hotel (www.sandymounthotel.ie) is 1.8 km (1.1 miles) away.

Public Transport

Lower Baggot Street is well serviced by Dublin Bus. Dublin Buses 38, 38A/B/D, 39, 39A, 70 stop immediately in front of Mercy International Centre. Several other bus routes have stops within close walking distance. Grand Canal Dock is the closest DART stop; it is 1.1 km (0.7 miles) distance from Mercy International Centre.

Pilgrimage Attire

Respectable casual attire is acceptable. Summertime peak temperatures range between 18°C (65°F) and 24°C (75°F) with lows between 6 and 10°C (mid-40s–50°F). Expect rain at any time.

Talent Show and Evening Social

There will be a talent show on Wednesday evening, and a social on Thursday evening. We encourage students and staff from all delegations to prepare either a group act or an individual act for the talent show. You are also invited to bring with you music, dances, or games from your country/culture that you may want to share with others for the social.

Programme Fee

The programme fee of €250 is for each student. There is no charge for chaperones. While registration materials are due to Mercy International Association by **St Patrick's Day, Friday 17th March**, monies are not due to Mercy International Association until 31st May. Check with your delegation leader for local deadlines. The fee covers all programme costs, mid-day and evening meals, snacks. Most hotels/hostels provide breakfast, but check with your accommodation site to ensure your fee is for 'bed and breakfast' and not 'room only.' Tuesday evening is a free evening to enjoy Dublin, and no evening meal is provided that day.

Photography and Video Recording

Communications personnel will be taking photographs and video images of the pilgrimage, and will be making some of those available to the public to tell the story of this pilgrimage. This may include newspaper articles; electronic or print newsletters, leaflets and posters; TV news clips; videos; Facebook postings; or similar media used in support of the mission of the Sisters of Mercy and Mercy International Association. If you do not want your image to be used, please notify us in advance of the pilgrimage, and we ask that a parent or guardian of each student under 18 years of age sign a release form included in the registration materials. Contact: heritage@mercyinternational.ie, +353 1 661 8061 (from Ireland: 01 661 8061).

Updates on Pilgrimage through Facebook and www.mercyworld.org

Regular updates on this pilgrimage will be posted on our Facebook page and on Mercy International Association's website. To follow us on Facebook, indicate that you 'Like' *MIA Young Mercy Leaders*. For additional information on this pilgrimage, including videos of the 2011, 2013, and 2014 pilgrimages, go to www.mercyworld.org/the_centre/index.cfm?loadref=250.

Pre- or Post-Conference Touring

Several overseas delegations are arranging extra time in Ireland or nearby countries. There is an association of tour operators in Ireland, and a list of their member organizations can be found at: www.itoa-ireland.com/members-list. Tour companies who most frequently bring groups to MIC are Abbey Tours (www.abbey.ie) and CIE Tours (www.cietours.com). A not-for-profit organization which specializes in intercultural learning opportunities is EIL Intercultural Learning Ireland (www.eilireland.org).

Transport to/from Airport

Few City Centre hotels and hostels provide airport shuttles, but *Dublin Bus 747* (www.dublinbus.ie/Your-Journey1/Timetables/Airport-Services) or *Aircoach* (www.aircoach.ie) will bring your delegation to a location within walking distance of your hotel/hostel. The cost varies around €6-8.50 one-way, and €14 for round-trip/return ticket.

Visas

Most participants in this pilgrimage will not need to apply for a visa in advance of your arrival in Ireland. Mercy International Association will alert your delegation leader if you are coming from a country that needs to apply for a visa prior to arrival. If you are a citizen of a country other than the country in which you are currently living, please check the visa requirements for entering Ireland:

www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving_country/moving_to_ireland/coming_to_live_in_ireland/visa_requirements_for_entering_ireland.html).

Language

This pilgrimage is in English only. Some Mercy schools have other languages as their first language. Mercy International Association is not able to provide translation services. If a school would like to send an interpreter along with one or more students, the interpreter's conference attendance will be complimentary.

Currency Issues

Monetary transactions in Ireland are in Euros. If your pre- or post-conference touring includes time in the North of Ireland, the currency there is the British Sterling Pound. Most vendors accept MasterCard or Visa.

Additional Questions

If you have additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact your delegation leader or MIA staff:

Mary Kay Dobrovolny rsm (heritage@mercyinternational.ie or phone at +353 1 661 8061 [from Ireland: 01 661 8061]).