



Mercy International Association Archive Committee

November 2001 - April 2009



Purpose of the MIA Archive Committee

- **To provide oversight for MIA archives and artifacts currently held at MIA, Baggot Street and Catherine McAuley Centre, Herbert St, Dublin.**
- **To assist MIA in its recognition and promotion of the archival treasures of its Members.**



In carrying out its purpose, within the resources available, the committee's responsibilities included, but were not limited to the following activities:

- 1. To oversee the plan, timeline and budget for relocating artifacts and archives between MIC and the Archives of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Ireland, 2003.**



- 2. To promote worldwide Mercy networks to ensure that documentation of the Mercy story is protected, preserved and used in such a way that it is an inspiration for contemporary and future Mercy mission.**
- 3. To nurture and promote research on Mercy topics and on Mercy archival materials.**



- 4. To identify the character and location of the current archival holdings of the Members.**
- 5. To draw up protocols for research.**
- 6. To promote standard practice for the acquisition, preservation and use of archival holdings.**



- 7. To provide an annual report to Mercy International Association prior to their Annual General Meeting.**
- 8. Liaison Sister from Mercy International Association was appointed to the Archives Committee.**



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Mercy Archives

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Archival Materials relating to Catherine McAuley and early Sisters of Mercy 1778 – 1870, located in the archives of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Herbert Street, Dublin. (Responsibility for these was transferred by a formal legal deed in 2003)



Artefacts located at Baggot Street.



Since the relocation of artifacts and archives between MIC and the Irish Congregational Archive, the work of identifying, labeling and filing the MIA Archives is carried on by Marianne Cosgrave.

Marianne has also prepared a Catalogue of the MIA Archives Collection as well as Access and Conservation Policies.



Register



**Names of all Sisters of Mercy
since the beginning of the Congregation**

- **Held in a database at MIC.**
- **Updated annually.**



Inventory



Primary Source Materials of the Sisters of Mercy

Phase One:

Autograph writings by Catherine McAuley, in her own handwriting on the original paper.

Phase Two:

Writings by Sisters who entered a Mercy Convent before or in 1850, in their own handwriting on the original paper.



Inventory



A computerized inventory of Primary Source Materials, up to and including 1850, in Mercy Archives, worldwide, is still ongoing.

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to all the Mercy Archivists throughout the world for their work on the painstaking task of developing the International Mercy Register and In gathering and registering the work in the inventory.



Standards



Standards/Guidelines for Mercy Archivists

“Standards for Mercy Archives” have been drawn up and approved for the care of the Collection owned by MIA and deposited at Mercy Congregational Archives, Herbert Street, Dublin, Ireland.



Standards



The Standards are also proposed by MIA, on the advice of the MIA Archives Committee, as a set of helpful standards or best practices which could beneficially guide the functioning of all Mercy Archives worldwide.

Topics include:

Acquisitions, Care of Archival Materials, Access to Collections, Budgets, Collaboration



Left to Right:

Mary Sullivan rsm, Caitlin Conneely rsm, Marianne Cosgrave
Pat Wood rsm, Marion McCarthy rsm,
Patricia Bell rsm, Cait O'Dwyer rsm .



Research



The Research Commission functioned as a sub-committee of the Archives Committee

The purposes of this Commission were to:

1. develop an understanding of principles guiding Mercy research
2. encourage the scholarly treatment of the archival and other research resources of the Sisters of Mercy
3. nurture the production of well researched analyses of resources



- 4. promote, through the dissemination of such research, the ongoing conversion of the Sisters of Mercy, their associates and partners in ministry, and to contribute to the ongoing life of the Church.**



Research



Roster of researchers

Bibliography of research

International Mercy Research Conference

Website Information about Conference process

Publication of Conference Papers



Research



BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS AND ARTICLES PUBLISHED BY OR ABOUT THE SISTERS OF MERCY, 1831 - 2005

The following Bibliography is an attempt to list all the published books and articles written by or about the Sisters of Mercy throughout the World since the founding of the congregation in 1831 through 2005.

** Choose the appropriate version based on your printer settings. The letter version of the document is set up for 8.5" x 11" whereas the A4 version is international standard. Both documents are in PDF format and 128 pages long.*

A4 version

Letter version



The MIA Research Conference was held at Mercy Centre Burlingame between 9 – 12 November 2007.

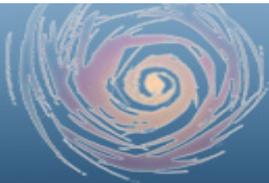
The twenty six invited researchers came from all over the Mercy world, including nearly all of the congregations of Sisters of Mercy whose leaders compose the MIA.



Research



www.mercyworld.org



Mercy International Research Conference

9 - 12 November 2007
Burlingame, California

The Conference

The MIRC

Participants

Prayer

Papers and Presentations

Feedback

The Conference

The **Mercy International Research Conference** was held at Mercy Center, Burlingame, California, on November 9-12, 2007. The twenty-six invited researchers came from all over the Mercy world, including nearly all of the congregations of Sisters of Mercy whose leaders compose the Mercy International Association (MIA).

They engaged in a Theological Reflection Process ([click here to download](#)). The theme of the conference was:

“ ‘Fire Cast on the Earth—Kindling’: Being Mercy in the Twenty-First Century.”



Research



Publication of Conference Papers

**"FIRE CAST ON THE EARTH – KINDLING"
BEING MERCY
IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**



**INTERNATIONAL MERCY RESEARCH CONFERENCE
9 – 13 NOVEMBER 2007**



Patricia Bell rsm, Mary Sullivan rsm, Caitlin Conneely rsm,
Cait O'Dwyer rsm, Marion McCarthy rsm,
Ethel Bignell rsm (Admin), Lee Guirrerri rsm, Marianne Cosgrave



Archives
Website



Mercy International Association Archives Website

Fraynetwork has provided us with an important section on the www.mercyworld.org website.

It includes information on the projects undertaken by the Archivists' Committee and the Researchers' Commission.



Archives
Website



Dates of many Mercy foundations, including the first foundations made by Catherine McAuley are included.

Further work needs to be done on this section by a Mercy historian.



Conferences



**Assist with planning for
MIA Conferences for Mercy Archivists.**

1996; 2003; 2009

Publication of 'Beyond Catherine'



Conferences



Beyond Catherine: Stories of Mercy Foundresses

A 146 page publication of the stories told by Mercy archivists at the MIA Archivists Conference in Nov 2003.

The booklet tells 27 stories of Mercy foundations all over the world, and was printed as a celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Mercy International Centre.



Archivist's
Newsletter



International Mercy Archivists' Newsletter

An interesting newsletter containing updates on the work of the Archive Committee has been published twice a year.



Directory
of Mercy
Archives



Directory of Mercy Archives

A copy of this Directory is in your Conference Bag.



Sr Patricia Bell acknowledged Sr Ethel Bignell for her work with the Committee over the years. Her wisdom, creativity, expertise and commitment were invaluable. Ethel was presented with a gift as a token of appreciation for her wonderful contribution.



Committee Members at the last Meeting in April 2009



Standing left to right:

Ethel Bignell rsm, Marianne Cosgrave, Marion Mc Carthy rsm,
Caitlin Conneely rsm, Lee Guirreri rsm, Patricia Bell rsm.

Sitting: Cait O' Dwyer rsm, Mary Reynolds rsm.