

# *Mercy International Association*

*64a Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, Ireland*



## *Mercy Renewal Programme: Watering the Roots at the Wellspring of Mercy July 3-29, 2011*

***Watering the Roots at the Wellspring of Mercy*** is a month-long residential programme designed for vowed Mercy women who are seeking refreshment and renewal. It offers participants the opportunity to take time out in an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality in order to discern more clearly the invitation of the Spirit in how to live out the mission of Mercy in our church and world. Participants will be joined in their exploration with experts in the fields of theology, scripture, vowed religious life, mercy charism, and communications.

The programme will consist of four modules:

### ***Week 1***

***'Behold I am creating something new; can you not perceive it?':  
Religious Life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

### ***Week 2***

***'God's gracious and compassionate Mercy is the wellspring':  
A Focus on Mercy in the Gospel of Luke***

### ***Week 3***

***'Woman of God. Woman for God's People':  
Unfolding Catherine's Story and Its Implications for Mercy Life Today***

### ***Week 4***

***'Living and Telling the Mercy Story':  
Continuing the Mission of Mercy in Response to the Needs of the World***

**‘Behold I am creating something new; can you not perceive it?’:  
Religious Life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
July 3-8, 2011**

In this programme, we will listen to and engage what the Spirit is inviting religious life to in our time. Religious life is undergoing significant shifts and the implications are considerable. Even though we are in a time of uncertainty, we are also in a time of immense opportunity. Cognizant of local and global contexts, what might reading the signs of the times in the world, Earth, church, and religious life offer us? Utilizing resources from our theological, spiritual, and social traditions, we will look at dimensions of the vowed life as we seek to hear how the spirit is moving and to what we are invited. The arts (music, literature, and visual arts) will be used as a way of engaging our religious imaginations as we discern ways we are called to live out God’s mission.

**Maria Cimperman, OSU, PhD**, is an Ursuline Sister and an Associate Professor of Moral Theology and Social Ethics at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas (USA). Her research and experiences with people in the United States, Africa, the Caribbean, and Central America led to the publication of *When God’s People Have HIV/AIDS: An Approach to Ethics* (Orbis 2005). She is member of the national core team of Giving Voice, an intercongregational gathering of women religious under the age of 50.



**‘God’s gracious and compassionate Mercy is the wellspring’:  
A Focus on Mercy in the Gospel of Luke  
July 10-15, 2011**

God’s gracious and compassionate Mercy is the wellspring, the source of never failing supply, for all those who cherish and seek to live out the gift of Mercy. A true understanding of God’s gracious and compassionate relationship with us is therefore essential to our Mercy identity and way of life. The heart of Jesus’ teachings on God’s mercy is found in the Gospel of Luke, particularly in the parables. Jesus used parables to shake us out of our usual way of seeing things in order to help us see as God sees — to see ourselves, our world, and life through God’s eyes, in order that we might be more effective in helping to bring about the kind of world that God desires for us. This programme invites us to open ourselves to risk the challenge of the parables and to allow them to change ourselves and our world.



**Marie Noël Keller, rsm, ThD**, is the executive director of the Institute on Sacred Scripture at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania (USA), a position she has held for thirty years. She is author of *Priscilla and Aquila: Paul’s Coworkers in Christ Jesus (Paul’s Social Network: Brothers and Sisters in Faith)*, which will be published in October 2010 by Liturgical Press.

**‘Woman of God. Woman for God’s People’:  
Unfolding Catherine’s Story and Its Implications for Mercy Life Today  
July 17-22, 2011**

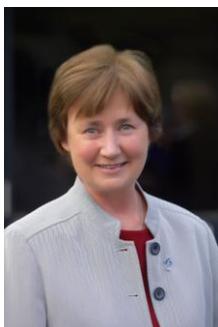
Who are our mentors for living our lives as faith-filled and faithful Mercy women? Catherine McAuley was a woman who staked her life on two fundamental beliefs: (1) *God is loving and provident*, and (2) *those who are most needy in our world come first*. These beliefs led her to an insistence on action AND a deep spirituality. In this programme, we will focus on the life, ministry and spirituality of Catherine in order to gain wisdom, inspiration, and encouragement for our own journeys. This will enable us to face the critical concerns of our day with her depth of imagination and courage.

**Brenda Dolphin, rsm, PhD**, lives in Rome and since September 2006 has served as the Postulator for the Cause for the Canonization of Catherine McAuley. She is a faculty member at the Pontifical Gregorian University and was previously in congregational leadership for the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy (Ireland).



**‘Living and Telling the Mercy Story’:  
Continuing the Mission of Mercy in Response to the Needs of the World  
July 24-29, 2011**

The challenge for Mercy women today is to remain true to Catherine McAuley’s founding spirit of immersion in God’s compassion and Mercy. What is the new contribution we are called to make as Sisters of Mercy in our world today? As a worldwide community of religious women, how do we find new ways to look at the issues which confront us at a global level, to honour the values of interconnection and interdependence, and to link local effort with global influence? This programme will invite us to re-envision the living of the Mercy story, to reflect on new ways of responding to the needs of our world, and to tell the new stories which will be the foundational narratives of a sustaining spirituality.



**Adele Howard, rsm**, is the Director and founder of Fraynetwork Multimedia, and serves as the Communications and Culture Consultant to Mercy International Association. She has been Producer of many Mercy stories such as the Mercyworld websites and the interactive CD-ROM ‘*Mercy and Justice Shall Meet*’. The aim of this resource is to educate the world to better understandings of those who do not have a voice in the world. It weaves the United Nations’ Milleninium Development Goals into the issue of global poverty through a theological reflection process.

**Eucharist, Prayer, Ritual**

To provide as much as possible for the differing prayer needs and styles of the group, participants will be invited to design and lead prayer experiences and to plan Liturgy and rituals, using various approaches, including cultural resources.

### **Preparation and Follow-up**

Participants will be invited to engage in web-based preparation and orientation prior to the programme, and at its conclusion there will be an integrative process to assist participants in appropriating more fully the blessings of their renewal time as they continue their life journeys.

### **Social time**

There will be opportunities to plan social time together. While participants are encouraged to stay at the centre for the entire month, the programme will not run at week-ends and this will give participants an opportunity for quiet personal time and for social time together. Dublin and its surroundings is an ideal location to experience some of the unique, rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Ireland through pilgrimage, theatre, film, music, art and other leisure activities.

Walking in Dublin and the surrounding countryside (mountains, beaches) is also a wonderful way to water one's roots!

### **Single Modules**

The programme is intended primarily for those who commit to the full month. There are 20 places available. Should all these places not be filled by December 1, 2010, places will be offered to those who wish to enroll for one or more modules of the programme, on a first come, first served basis.

**Cost: € 2,000**

**To make application, please contact:**

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