

# Outline of the Four Mercy Global Presence Segments

## Guiding Group

### Segment 1 Focus: *Global* (September 2019 to December 2019)

In these next four months (through four themes in September - December 2019), we will listen to many distinct voices singing the ground-shifting song of Cosmos (*September*), the lifegiving chant of integral ecology (*October*), the resounding melodies of humankind experiencing deep social change (*November*), and the joy-filled canticles of praise for the incarnation of our God in Cosmos and in the person of Jesus the Christ (*December*).

From 'panoramic vistas to the tiniest living form' (Laudato Si', 85), 'Global' at the centre of 'Mercy Global Presence' will come alive with new wonder, new mystery and new meaning.

#### Summary

The initial exploration of Mercy Global Presence centres on "Global," the context in which all mercying happens. Through the wisdom of many voices, new meanings of "global" will unfold over four months: cosmology as the communion of all God's creation, integral ecology as relationships among all Earth ecosystems, people and today's deep social change, and the living God incarnate in Cosmos and in the person of Jesus the Christ.

### Segment Two: *Mercy* (March 2020 to June 2020)

In the coming four months (through four themes in March – June 2020), the second segment of our journey into Mercy Global Presence will deepen our love and passion for mercy. We will delight in the rich and varied expressions of mercy through all the major faith traditions (March). We will lament the desperate need for mercy in the tragic degradation of Earth (April). We will see mercy threaded through the torn lives of persons displaced as individuals, as communities and as peoples (May). We will rejoice in the wondrous continued and new ways in which mercy is visible in our time (June). As Mary Wickham rsm prays in her *Litany of Mercy*, we will celebrate the colour, the shape, the mystery and the arenas of mercy.

#### Summary

Having explored the context for Mercy Global Presence as "global," the second segment of this energizing journey focuses on "mercy" – God's mercy, Earth's mercy and our mercy. Seen through many diverse lenses, mercy will come alive: the richness of mercy in all major faith traditions, the passionate plea for mercy in the degradation of Earth, the desperate need for mercy in the displacement of persons, and the wondrous ways of mercy visible in our time.

### Segment Three: *Presence* (September 2020-December 2020)

In a time of social distancing, mask wearing and social isolation, we begin our exploration of "presence" in segment three of *Mercy Global Presence*. For the next four months (September 2020 to December 2020), we will focus more intentionally on presence in a time when we are warned that physical presence can spread a virus that is challenging our health, our economy, our livelihoods, our

safety, and our well-being. We begin by deepening our emerging understandings of the presence of God in the cosmos, on Earth and in our hearts (September).

In the wisdom of integral ecology, we explore the meaning of presence of Earth and to Earth for humans and all Earth creatures (October). With a growing appreciation of the changing face of the global mercy family, we reflect on presence in ministry and in community during a pandemic time (November). In our final month in this segment (December) when we are especially sensitive to incarnation, we attend to presence to oneself.

Threaded through all reflections will be a sense of borders or boundaries or fringes as places with the promise of connection, new relationships and new growth. In the words from *Gaudete et Exsultate* (#135): “Unafraid of the fringes, Jesus himself became a fringe (cf. Phil 2:6-8; Jn 1:14). So, if we dare to go to the fringes, we will find him there.”

### **Summary**

Having now explored the context for *Mercy Global Presence* as “global” and its spirit as “mercy,” in this third segment, we centre our attention to presence – presence to, with and of God; presence of and to Earth; presence in ministry and in community; and presence to oneself. Once again, myriad voices will call us into new thinking and new dreaming and new hope. They will dare us to open our spirits and our hearts to the promise of moving outside our comfort zones to the fringes where the newness will be found. Let us dare to become boundary walkers with some amazing companions in mercy!

### **Segment Four: *Integrated* (March 2021 to June 2021)**

Literary métissage (Spanish mestizaje) generates new knowledge through writing and braiding texts and other art forms. It embraces distinct voices, uses different genres, and reclaims many wisdoms. Ecological métissage adapts the same blending of diversity with ecological worldviews (indigenous, scientific, and religious). Métissage invites the reader or the listener to pursue many paths through the texts, art forms and worldviews. In this way, it generates new understanding and wisdom about the world and our place in it.

The first three segments of *Mercy Global Presence* have been an intense experience of métissage across the Mercy world. From September 2019 to December 2019, the focus was “global” as the context in which all mercying happens – cosmology, integral ecology, deep social change, and the incarnate God.

In the beginnings of the global pandemic from March 2020 to June 2020, “mercy” – God’s mercy, Earth’s mercy, and our mercy – was explored through major faith traditions, degradation of Earth, displacement of persons, and mercy visible in our time.

From September 2020 to December 2020, attention to “presence” – to, with and of God; of and to Earth, in ministry and community, and oneself and others – dared us to move as boundary crossers to the fringes where the newness will be found.

Now we come to our fourth and last segment (March 2021 to June 2021) which intensifies the métissage as it completes the weaving of new patterns through contemplative seeing, a compassionate heart, mercying, and the creating of circles and a culture of mercy. In the braiding of differences, may we help transform the post-pandemic world and church. Let us together create a new weaving of mercy, gathering the threads of our lived experience and resplendent in all the colours and textures of Earth.

## Summary

Through the first three segments of Mercy Global Presence, we have been engaged in an intense and artful experience of *métissage* or *mestizaje*, of braiding voices and genres and wisdoms focused on “global,” “mercy,” and “presence.” We now move to our fourth segment in which the integration of the three segments unfolds. With attention to contemplative seeing, a compassionate heart, mercying, and the creating of circles and a culture of mercy, we weave difference and diversity into a new fabric of mercy to help clothe a transformed world and church come to re-birth.

—Elizabeth Davis rsm