



**MERCY
GLOBAL
PRESENCE**

Facilitators Guide: Presence in Ministry & Community

Guiding Group

The role of the Facilitator will necessarily include organising the group's access at the session to the resources on screen or in print.

A suggested structure for each Session is:

1. Preparation of the Focus Space
2. Prayer
3. Introduction
4. Content Explored
5. Reflection and Discussion
6. Closing

As this is the third theme of the third Segment, most groups will have already explored the context for *Mercy Global Presence* as “global” (Segment One) and its spirit as “mercy” (Segment Two), and so will be familiar with the process and [the microsite](#).

Whichever presentation you, the Facilitator, or group first choose to engage with, commence your work using the introduction by Elizabeth Davis rsm. Sr Elizabeth commences her presentation by recalling key moments from last month's theme 'Presence to Earth'. Elizabeth alerts us to the preparations participants have already made for undertaking this theme: 'Our wisdom gained from our first two themes – presence to and with God and presence to Earth – will be a firm foundation on which to hear this month's voices'.

Once again, we offer three of many possible approaches to using resources from this theme, implementing the suggested structure (nos. 1-6). The approach used will depend on the needs, interests, abilities and situations of the group members. **At this present time, groups that are able to meet are using video conferencing. Our suggested approaches take account of this and of face-to-face-meetings becoming possible again in the future.**

Facilitators may, of course, use their own approach with the resources, or choose elements from these three suggested approaches to create a different approach. At the conclusion of the Session the Facilitator or another group member is encouraged to send on 'what is too good for the group to keep to themselves' to mgpfeedback@mercyinternational.ie

Example Approach One: Theological Imaginings

The Facilitator organises an online meeting room such as Zoom, Skype or Facetime. If using Zoom, the introductory video could be shared using the 'Share screen' function. When face to face meetings are possible again, the Facilitator organises a smart television or a data projector

and laptop for the meeting place in order to screen (on a blank wall or screen) the video and, if thought helpful, provide each participant with a print out of the video script.

The Focus space could be prepared with greenery and elements or images that evoke the theme. Consider inviting the participants to bring (or show on screen) an image representative of their ministry.

Commence the session with the sentence from the introductory paragraph:

'Doing justice in ministry, loving kindness in community and walking humbly with God for both ministry and community are a simple and vibrant expression of right relationships among humans and with God.'

Allow time for short, personal reflection before inviting participants to jot down their current understandings of 'community' and 'ministry'.

Invite participants to take it in turns to read the article aloud, if using the script, pausing at the end of each section to jot down the sentence that stands out for them.

If screening the video, pause at the end of each section to enable this activity to take place. At the conclusion of the reading or screening, invite participants to share in small groups the sentence they chose and their reason for selecting it. If participants are meeting on Zoom, breakout rooms would be used for this sharing.

After the designated time, bring participants back to the large group and invite participants to share something they heard that is 'too good to keep to themselves'.

Conclude the session with the Reflective prayer.

Example Approach Two: Grassroots Ministry

The Facilitator organises an online meeting room such as Zoom, Skype or Facetime. If using Zoom, the text of the article could be shared using the 'Share screen' function. When face to face meetings are possible again, the Facilitator provides each participant with a print out of the presentation.

The Focus space could be prepared with elements or images that evoke the theme of this presentation: homelessness. If meeting online, the image used with permission to illustrate Sr Marie's article, '*Glasgow Homeless Jesus After Storm Ciara*' can be found here: <https://galinawallsphotography.co.uk/glasgow-homeless-jesus-after-storm-ciara/> There are four photos of the statue which could be screened for reflection.

Invite participants to take it in turns to read the article aloud.

Invite participants in the large group to share a personal story or a reflection from their ministry.

Sr Marie shares her experiences and her reflections from forty years of working with homeless people. In the sharing she gifts us with quotes that have sustained, inspired and confirmed her ministry for her. These come from Catherine McAuley, Pope Francis, John O'Donohue and Gabriel Gutierrez osf.

Invite participants to share with the group a quote that sustains, inspires or affirms their ministry for them.

Conclude the session with the Reflective Prayer.

Example Three: Distinct Voice

The Facilitator organises an online meeting room such as Zoom, Skype or Facetime. If using Zoom, the text of the article could be shared using the 'Share screen' function. When face to face meetings are possible again, the Facilitator provides each participant with a print out of the presentation.

The Focus space could be prepared with elements or images that evoke the theme.

Invite participants to take it in turns to read the article aloud, leaving out the final paragraph.

Sr Michelle poses two questions which could be used as the basis for small group sharing and large group discussion: 'Where can we see the presence of God in our world in the midst of all this [pandemic] How do we keep our hearts attuned to God's presence in our everyday experience?'

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Facilitator or another reader reads aloud the final paragraph of the article.

Invite brief responses.

Conclude the session with the Reflective Prayer.