

15 January 2019



Dear Mercy Educators,

Greetings from Dublin! We are looking forward to the upcoming *Pilgrimage for Young Mercy Leaders* which will be held from 10am, Tuesday 16th July - 5pm, Friday 19th July 2019. This pilgrimage, for high school students aged 16-18, brings together students from across the Mercy world. For more information, see: http://www.mercyworld.org/the_centre/index.cfm?loadref=250.

Thank you to the schools who have pre-registered. If you have not done so, please let me know and I will add your delegation name to the registration form as an option to choose from. We are now asking that every participant (including accompanying staff) completes the online registration form available at this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/VgxfSWVGKoNopTOz2>

As we have been able to secure some funding for the Youth Leadership Programmes we are offering an early bird registration cost of €250 per person for all participants registered and paid before St Patrick's Day, the 17th March 2019. Registration cost after the 17th March will be €280 per participant.

Every five pilgrims, from the same school, registered will generate a complementary chaperone registration. Once the number of pilgrims/chaperones you are bringing is confirmed, let me know and we will generate an invoice for your group.

The facilitator for the conference this year is Stephanie Langley. Stephanie was a participant in the Young Mercy Leaders programme last year. She is a teacher of Accounting and Business Management at All Hallows' School in Brisbane, Australia, and has responsibilities in the student wellbeing area. Stephanie is also President of the Brisbane Actioning Mercy group.

The keynote speakers and detailed timetables are still being confirmed and will be advised shortly. The programme will include elements such as the Tour of the House of Mercy, the walking tour of Dublin and a focus on the contemporary call to engage in the works of mercy throughout our world.

Thank you for making this pilgrimage available to your students and if you have questions or there is other information that would be useful to you, please contact me at heritage@mercyinternational.ie.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Anna Nicholls".

Anna Nicholls rsm
Leader, Heritage and Spirituality



PILGRIMAGE OF YOUNG MERCY LEADERS

for High School Students

Tuesday 16 July ~ Friday 19 July 2019

INFORMATION SHEET

Programme Description

Students and young adults from Mercy High Schools will travel to Mercy International Centre 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 enriched to strive for justice and Mercy, with the courage that Catherine demonstrated.

Programme Content

All 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, a variety of workshops, discussions and meaningful rituals.

Programme Schedule

Date	Begin Time	End Time	Meals Included
Tuesday 16 July	10:00 a.m.	5:15 p.m.	Packed lunch & afternoon snack
Wednesday 17 July	9:15 a.m.	8:00 p.m.	morning & afternoon snacks; packed lunch; dinner voucher for local eating places
Thursday 18 July	9:15 a.m.	8:00 p.m.	morning & afternoon snacks; packed lunch; evening meal
Friday 19 July	9:15 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	morning & afternoon snacks; packed lunch

Location of Pilgrimage

The Pilgrimage will be held at Mercy International Centre (64a Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2) the original house built by Catherine McAuley. Mercy International Centre is well serviced by Dublin Buses 38, 38A/B, 39, 39A, 70 which stop immediately in front of Mercy International Centre.

Accommodation

Delegations are responsible for securing their own accommodation. Hotels and hostels in City Centre are accessible by Dublin Bus (or up to 2 mile walk). A City Centre hostel is Abigail's Hostel (www.abigailshostel.com). Hotels near MIC include Lansdowne Hotel (www.lansdownehotel.ie) and Mespil Hotel (www.mespilhotel.com). B&B or self-catering apartments near MIC include Latchfords (www.latchfords.ie) and Baggot Court (www.baggotcourt.com).

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.

Taize Prayer and Irish Céilí

There will be Taize Prayer on Wednesday evening, and an Irish Céilí on Thursday evening. For those not familiar with a Céilí, the participants will be taught some Irish dances and enjoy Irish Music, this was a highlight at the pilgrimage last year for many students.

Programme Fee

The fee of €250 per person is payable for earlybird registration and payment that is received before 17 March. The cost will be €280 per person for registrations and payments received after then. Complementary chaperone registrations will be granted for every five pilgrims per school. The fee covers all programme costs, and meals as stipulated above. 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. There is a consent question as part of the registration form.

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 like us at <https://www.facebook.com/MercyLeaders/>

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 one-way, and €12 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: http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving_country/moving_to_ireland/coming_to_live_in_ireland/visa_requirements_for_entering_ireland.html

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.

Data Protection

Increased regulations in the EU regarding the collection and retention of data came into effect in May 2018. MIA collects the data on the form for the purposes of organising the conference. After the conference we appreciate retaining the names and contact details of participants for archival purposes. There is a consent question as part of the registration form.

Additional Questions

If you have additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact Anna Nicholls rsm at heritage@mercyinternational.ie