



VOLUME 4
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In her day, Catherine McAuley brought her heart to misery and in the self-gift released a call still heard. By courageous, contagious concern for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the poor, the sick and the ignorant, she broke through the impossibilities of her time. She animated many to walk with her. She animated others at centers of wealth, power, and influence to share in her heroic efforts. She connected the rich to the poor, the healthy to the sick, the educated and skilled to the uninstructed, the influential to those of no consequence, the powerful to the weak to do the work of God on earth.

— M. Joanna Regan, RSM

Happy Mercy Day!

Mercy Comments

SISTERS OF MERCY OF THE AMERICAS

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“Catherine’s deep

sense of stewardship

was an important facet of her spirituality. She employed it to rouse her own exertions, to call others to greater effort, as well as to negotiate to the advantage of any

works of mercy”

Development Advisory Board Convenes

The newly formed Development Advisory Board for the Sisters of Mercy, New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community came together recently for its first meeting at Mercy Center in Buffalo.



Listed from l to r, front row: Sue Vertosik, Sr. Peggy Gorman, RSM, Elizabeth Kolber, Sr. Nancy Hoff, RSM, Mary Daley (Chair). Back row: Lawrence Vetter, Richard Finley, J. Thomas Briody, Ellen Koessler, Mary Temple and Lawrence Dalzell (not present, Berna Savarino)

This Advisory Board consists of two representatives from each of the four geographic areas of the New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community of the Sisters of Mercy – Buffalo, Erie, Rochester, Pittsburgh and stateside representatives for the Philippines.

The role of the Advisory Board is to assist the Sisters of Mercy in their efforts to gain public interest and the voluntary financial support necessary for continuing their mission and ministries among the people of God.



Dear Friends of Mercy,

By collaborating with others in works of mercy we continually learn from them how to be more merciful.

—Sisters of Mercy Constitutions #6

When I entered the community in 1961, the Sisters of Mercy were a self-sustaining group. We had large numbers of well-educated women

and could pretty much function on our own. Sisters had the highest administrative positions in our ministries, served on our ministry boards and provided the majority of the workforce in our schools and hospitals.

While that was well and good, what it did not allow for was what our Constitutions #6 calls us to do: collaborate with others in ministry in a way that is mutually beneficial and enriching.

Today, of course, we see a very different reality from the one that I first experienced in 1961. While the Sisters of Mercy are still very committed to our ministries, we recognize that we cannot, and indeed should not, bear sole responsibility for them. We want to partner with others in a way that enhances the mission of Mercy and provides for greater service to those in need. That partnership takes various forms: having persons other than Sisters of Mercy serve as ministry administrators, sit on our ministry Sponsorship Councils and various ministry boards and serve in administrative positions within the structure of the Community.

In this issue of *Mercy Moments*, we are highlighting a new form of collaboration that we are undertaking: The Development Advisory Board, a group of ten persons who will assist the Community leadership team and development office in its efforts to gain the public interest and financial support necessary for continuing the Mercy mission and ministries among the people of God.

We are grateful to these ten persons for their willingness to place their gifts at the service of our Community. Please know that the Sisters of Mercy are grateful to you as well for all that you continue to do to assist us in our mission. You are remembered daily in the prayers of our sisters and in a special way on the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, September 24.

In Mercy,

Sister Nancy Hoff, RSM

Sister Nancy Hoff, RSM, President



Dear Friends,

The New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community Development Office is now two years old!

Starting a new Development Office has its challenges for both staff and donors. For the personnel it is learning new skills and understanding

the reality of the responsibilities of combining data bases for five areas as well as learning the many needs of all the ministries and of our sisters who are retired and infirm. For donors, many questions arise-will my contributions still go where I designate? Who will I know in that office? I only know the sisters from my area; will all this be lost in the merger? The beginning years are years of transition, patience and excitement in building something new. The most important part of all our efforts is to assure that you, our friends, are cared for, informed and understand that all we do is for the continuance of our works of Mercy and the well-being of our retired and infirm sisters.

In May we had the first meeting of our Advisory Board and are most grateful to each of our members who are willing to walk with us and assist us in our development plans.

I personally wish to thank you for your patience and understanding as these necessary changes are being made. These two years have been filled with challenges and blessings as we began to know our wonderful donors, learn of all the ministries in our five areas and meet our elderly sisters and respond to their needs as well.

We feel very blessed to have you by our side during these challenging times. One of the greatest gifts we can give you in return is the prayers of our sisters. This is something that is not in transition!

We continue to remember each of you in our prayers with great affection.

Gratefully,

Sister Peggy Gorman, RSM

Sister Peggy Gorman, RSM,
Chief Development Officer



Mercy Day

Soon it will be the **Feast of Our Lady of Mercy!** It is a special day for Sisters of Mercy throughout the world. When Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, first opened a house on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland, it was the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, September 24th so she called it the **HOUSE OF MERCY**. Catherine was a woman for all times, who, with the genius of love, was sensitive to the inadequacies of her society and who created structures to meet contemporary problems of social misery, social injustice and religious intolerance. She was indefatigable in her exertions to relieve the wants of the poor and her kindness endeared her to all. Later when Catherine founded a new order of religious women, she chose to call the new Community, the **SISTERS OF MERCY**, for the same reasons.

The Sisters of Mercy celebrate September 24th with gatherings of all the sisters, a special Liturgy and then a festive meal and conversation! You, our favored friends, will have a place in our prayers on our special day!

If you or someone you know are in need of prayer, please let us know. Our sisters will remember your prayer requests and special intentions throughout the day on **September 24th – "Mercy Day—the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy."** Please call us at the telephone numbers listed on the last page, or visit our website and click on Prayer Requests – www.mercynyppaw.org



*May God bless you
and those you love.*

Surf on over to the Sisters of Mercy website at—www.mercynyppaw.org



Read the latest news about our sisters, ministries and those we serve. Browse through our Mercy stories, news releases and newsletters. You can visit our ministries without even leaving your home—let your fingers do the walking!

Are you someone who prefers to donate on line? Click on HOW TO GIVE and learn about the many ways you can assist the Sisters of Mercy.

We hope you enjoy visiting our website—it was designed with you in mind!

*Include us
in your
Favorites!*



DREAMS Can Come True



“This scholarship has meant everything—it’s opened up a lot of new doors for me.”

Maddison Leonard
Notre Dame High School



“Without this scholarship, my dream would have never happened.”

Esmiranda Beha
Our Lady of Mercy High School

Education, in the largest sense, is any act or experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character or physical ability of an individual. In its technical sense, education is the process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills and values from one generation to another.

During recent interviews with young adults attending the Mercy high schools sponsored by the New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community, namely, Notre Dame High School in Elmira, NY; Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie, PA; Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester, NY and Mount Mercy Academy in Buffalo, NY, the students all described the Mercy education they are receiving as challenging—“the teachers know what you can do and won’t settle for less.”

The four students interviewed for this article all stressed the importance of their Catholic education—something that wouldn’t have been possible without **scholarship assistance**. One student, Maddy Leonard of Notre Dame High School said, “I would have been very disappointed if I did not receive this scholarship, but I would have tried again the next year and every year thereafter just so I could get a Catholic education—I really wanted to attend.” She further said, “**This scholarship has meant everything to me—because of that, I have grown more as a person and I’ve learned to acknowledge my strengths and overcome my weaknesses.**”

The Sisters of Mercy have long been known to provide a quality Catholic education at their Mercy high schools. The programs and opportunities offered focus on preparing each student to reach his or her full potential and prepare them for excellence in college and beyond. Esmiranda Beha of Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester said, “The teachers here are different, they are more available and more encouraging. They prepare us for college by giving us useful guidance and information regarding college and what to expect.”



Gift for a Student in Need



“I wouldn’t have been able to attend Mercyhurst if it wasn’t for this scholarship. Mercyhurst has changed me a lot—its made me a better person”

Zachery Lee Palmer
Mercyhurst Preparatory School



“Without this scholarship, my Catholic education at Mount Mercy would not have been possible.”

Kelsey Hayes
Mount Mercy Academy

Good morals, strong leadership and solid values cannot be found in a textbook, but rather in the quality Catholic education that our students receive from our teachers. Zachery Lee Palmer of Mercyhurst Preparatory School stated, “It’s more spiritual—it gives me a chance to explore and has helped my moral development—it helps you understand who you are. My education here has made me a better person.”

Our Mercy schools teach students skills they can carry with them through life. Kelsey Hayes of Mount Mercy Academy in Buffalo stated, “I feel I have grown as a person—I’ve opened up. My teachers have given me confidence. If I didn’t receive this scholarship, I wouldn’t have felt as challenged as I am at Mount Mercy.”

For many years, the Sisters were able to provide a Mercy education at an affordable rate. Today, the tuition range of \$7,000-\$10,000 at our Mercy sponsored schools makes it impossible for many middle class families to provide a Catholic education for their children without **tuition assistance**. The Sisters of Mercy and the administrators of our schools are doing all they can to **provide financial awards and scholarships** to students whose academic records indicate they are **students who work to the best of their ability and whose families exhibit financial need**. These students are the next generation and being spiritually prepared is one of the most important qualities they can possess. Our Mercy schools teach students how to demonstrate that spiritual and visionary leadership needed to enrich the communities where they reside. Why not take the next step and help a student get a quality Catholic education—a Mercy education that will last a lifetime.

If you would like to help a worthy student obtain a scholarship and receive a Mercy education, please mail your donation today in the envelope provided marked **Scholarships**. Thank you!

Dreams can come true...



NO TEA PARTY??

You may recall receiving an invitation to our “Non-event Tea Party” earlier this year. We hope you enjoyed the humor of our non-event. We thought you might enjoy reading the responses we received from our donors. Humor is certainly contagious!

“I love these cards. The Sisters of Mercy have a great sense of humor!”

“My thoughts have been turned back to days long ago, To my time at “Hurst Prep,” wouldn’t ya know. With this message they sent homework once again, Why to this tea party I cannot attend.”

“This is the best invitation to tea I have ever received. I love, love, love it! Many blessings to all of the Sisters of Mercy!”

“You all have a sense of humor! This card was going in the trash until I read the response card—this is the best fundraising offer yet! Who could refuse?”

“Best Request for a donation I have ever seen!”

“Your campaign is utter “nun sense”—Great job! Our best to all!”

“Whoever wrote, and we assume it was a nun, has a great sense of humor, and if she ever “jumps the wall” she could run a big advertising agency in the Big Apple!”

“My modest donation is not worthy of your unique and humorous fund raising technique! I loved the form—it brightened my day!”

“Sorry I’m so late—I bet my tea is cold!”



If you would like to read more responses to our Non-event Tea Party, please visit our website at www.mercynyppaw.org and click on “Tea Party.”

Give the Gift of

Prayer...
this Christmas

Cards Available from the Sisters of Mercy

Christmas is just around the corner and shopping can sometimes be a harrowing experience. This year, we would like to alleviate some of those shopping troubles by offering you a gift that everyone on your shopping list will appreciate—Christmas cards with a gift of prayer. These beautifully designed cards could be the answer to that “hard to buy” gift for a friend or a loved one. And the price is right—just a free-will offering.



Memorial and Tribute Cards

In addition to our *Give a Christmas Gift of Prayer* cards, we continue to offer our **Memorial Mass Program** cards and 4 selections of **Tribute Cards** for various occasions. **You may order any of these by calling your Local Development Coordinator or by using the order form on our website:**

www.mercynyppaw.org



The Philippines... a country of CONTRAST...

a Mission of Mercy

The latest trip to the Philippines was made by Sisters Patricia Prinzing and JoAnne Corneen, members of our Leadership Team, who wanted to share these reflections of their visit.

The Philippines is a country of contrasts – tropical delights, quiet gentle people, succulent fruit, plentiful fish and an array of other crops. Its beauty is breathtaking with flowers everywhere, and views of the sea popping up all around. The people are welcoming, just a bit shy, but ready to converse if given the opportunity. They are justifiably proud of their country and its natural resources. But there is another side as well. There are devastating typhoons, immense poverty and political violence.

In the midst of the beauty and challenges, our Philippine Sisters of Mercy minister with creativity, energy and dedication. If there is a word to summarize what they do, it would be empowerment. The empowerment of women through job training is one of their main initiatives. Mercy Herbal Clinic provides

women with skills in soap making and the processing of cough syrup. Mercy Mobile Clinic finds the syrup an important aid for congestion and coughs as they treat over 500 patients monthly in the poor areas of the town of Tubod and throughout the island of Mindanao.



Cough syrup made at Mercy Herbal Clinic and dispensed by the Mercy Mobile Clinic, Lala



Principal Michelle Raber
Mercy Junior College, Tubod

The children, the Philippines best hope for the future, are empowered through their education by the sisters and teachers who enliven their classes with love, sound instruction, and song and dance. Here, over 2,000 students are offered the opportunity for education that is rooted in the Catholic faith and the Mercy tradition. Hopefully, this will inspire them to work for peace and to alleviate the extensive poverty that is all around them.

Financial resources are scarce and the needs are great so the sisters constantly seek ways to fund their efforts to empower women, to educate poor children, to nurture abused girls, and to provide medical care and medicine for the patients at Mercy Hospital and the Mercy Mobile Clinic. Our Philippine sisters offer enormous service to the people of Mindanao and beyond. They truly reflect the Mercy Spirit and know how “to do a lot with a little”. And they do it with a gentle humility and deep courage—and the mission of Mercy lives on!

We wish to thank all who responded so generously to the devastating fire at our Holy Cross convent and school in Kolumbugan. Because of you, our *mission of Mercy* does indeed live on—over \$52,000 has been raised for the restoration of these buildings—donations are always welcome! Thank you for your generosity!



New York, Pennsylvania,
Pacific West Community

Leadership Team

Sister Nancy Hoff, RSM
President

Sister Patricia Prinzing, RSM
Vice President

Sister Guadalupe Lumantas, RSM
Councilor

Sister JoAnne Courneen, RSM
Councilor

Sister Geraldine Rosinski, RSM
Councilor

Development Advisory Board

Mary Daly, *Chair*

J. Thomas Briody

Lawrence Dalzell

Richard Finley

Sr. Peggy Gorman, RSM

Sr. Nancy Hoff, RSM

Ellen Koessler

Elizabeth Kolber

Bernadine Savarino

Mary Temple

Susan Vertosick

Lawrence Vetter

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Sister Anna Marie Goetz, RSM
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Sister Ann Miller, RSM
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Spring 4th in Mercy Money Calendar Winners

March-April 2010

Congratulations to our Spring 4th in Mercy Money Calendar winners for the months of March and April of this year. Thank you to all who participated in this fun-filled drawing!



March			March		
4	Sr. Rose Curry	\$100	18	Harold Wohlfeil	25
5	Delores Militello	25	19	Bessie Berardi	500
6	Sr. Pierre Dembinski	25	20	Ethel DiGregorio	\$100
7	Dolores Kozlowski	50	21	Mary Pat Nichols	50
8	Jeannie B. McGinley	25	22	Karen Riordan	25
9	Alexander Q. Smith	25	23	Paul Bova	25
10	Eileen Kasperski Kay	25	24	Brian Zematis	25
11	Karen Penfold	25	25	Bill Spaulding	25
12	George Martin	25	26	Pat and Steve Box	25
13	Janice Shier	25	27	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Zoltoski	25
14	Sr. Mariella Enright	50	28	Marilou Hoppe	50
15	Sr. Marilyn Brewer	25	29	Suzanne Piccolo	25
16	Joan Reichert Erbin	25	30	Shirley O'Donnell	25
17	Carol A. Britt	500	31	Sr. Rose Curry	25
April			April		
1	Sr. Norine Truax	\$50	3	Srs. Margaret Mary & Barbara Wintish	\$25
2	Judy and Paul Petrocy	25	4	John R. Roeback	500

Be sure to click on our website for a listing of our Summertime Mercy Money Calendar winners.



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