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Spirituality Topic of July 16-18 Gathering

Sister Mary Rose Bumpus, Ph.D., grew up in a family of eight children in Nashville, Tenn., and from an early age knew that she was different. Take the time when she was six years old and her siblings were caught up in a game of basketball – Mary Rose was off somewhere contemplating a sunset and “being fascinated by God.”

“I have always had this hunger,” said Mary Rose, a Sister of Mercy with the Sisters of Mercy South Central Community, in a recent telephone interview from her office at Seattle (Wash.) University, where she is an associate professor of spirituality. “This desire is a real gift to me.”

Sister Mary Rose intends to take her passion for spirituality and spice it up with the unique flavor of Mercy when she speaks on July 17 at the “Theology of a Merciful Heart” gathering at St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, N.Y. The annual gathering July 16-18 for Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Associates with the New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community will also offer prayer, conversation and fun. The Community Leadership Team has added Pre-Chapter and Pre-Assembly planning sessions for the afternoon of July 18 to noon on July 19.

Sister Mary Rose’s presentation, “Spirituality of Mercy in and through the Scriptures,” will be followed by small-group discussions. Her presentation will center around biblical stories that tell of God’s mercy and invite participants to reflect on their personal stories.

“ ‘How has our spirituality of mercy inspired us to do the work that we do?’ is one of the questions I will invite them to reflect upon. I also want them to reflect on how they have experienced God’s mercy and have been mediators of that mercy for others,” said Sister Mary Rose, who teaches and writes on biblical spirituality, spiritual direction and psycho-spiritual development.

The Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community is comprised of Buffalo, Erie, the Philippines, Pittsburgh and Rochester.