

## **Living Mercy Today**

Last week 70 participants gathered together for the Young Mercy Leaders' Pilgrimage which took place over 3 days at the Academy, OLMC Heidelberg and finally, on the third day, at Holy Cross Monastery, Templestowe.

One of the joys of the experience was to meet teachers and students from a number of Mercy schools:

Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy  
Our Lady of Mercy, Heidelberg  
St Aloysius, North Melbourne  
Mt Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale  
Sacred Heart College, Geelong  
Sacred Heart College, Kyneton  
St Aloysius College, Adelaide  
St Francis De Sales College, Mount Barker, South Australia  
Marist Regional College, Burnie, Tasmania  
Mercedes College, Springfield, South Australia

A number of other Colleges expressed an interest for recordings of the Pilgrimage speakers.

During the course of the three days we were challenged to reflect on what it means to "Live Mercy Today".

On Day 1 the focus was on the life and legacy of both Catherine McAuley and Ursula Frayne.

On Day 2 we were privileged to listen to a number of inspirational speakers. Sr Cathy Solarno reflected with us on the significant area of Interculturalism. Her presentation gave us the opportunity to reflect on our biases and to focus on the importance of "working intentionally" for a "culture of Empowerment" (Pope Francis)

- + not just seeing but looking
- + not just hearing but listening
- + not just passing by but stopping
- + not just saying "what a shame" but allowing oneself to be moved with Compassion.

Angela Scarafilo, Young Mercy Links Co-ordinator, along with Academy alumnae, Ruby Hoare (College Captain 2022 and Phoebe Baillon (Justice Captain 2020) spoke of their continuing journey in mercy manifested through their involvement in Young Mercy Links.

Kathleen Donnellon, past Chair of the Mercy Works Board, informed us of some of the programs of Mercy Works and of the imperative of working together with the local people and ascertaining their needs as the first essential step in offering support. And finally, Maddie Kelly (St Aloysius Adelaide Alumni) reflected with us on her "call" to work in Tanzania, a call that extended for 6 years at The school of St. Jude's, a school which provides quality education for the poorest of the poor.

All our presenters both challenged and inspired us.

There was also time throughout the Pilgrimage for both conversation and fun - a very competitive trivia evening, a walk to Lygon Street for ice-cream and more.

The Pilgrimage concluded on Day 3 with a very meaningful mass where pilgrims were commissioned to go forth with hope and joy.

## **Blessing of Departure**

Young people of Mercy

Go forth from this place with joy; go forth with hopeful hearts.

Go forth from this place with remembering hearts,  
grateful for all that we have shared.

Go forth with arms held wide,

open to what God sends to us for merciful embrace.  
Go forth with ears attuned  
to the nuances of conversations in mercy.  
Go forth from this place  
with feet that itch to continue the dance  
and to walk the roads of mercy.  
Go forth from this place  
with enthusiastic faith in God and in one another  
until we meet again.  
May God, the Trinity of love  
Creator, Word and Wisdom  
bless each of us on the journey  
*Mary Wickham rsm*

