

# CROSSINGS IN MERCY

The Story of the  
Sisters of Mercy

Papua New Guinea 1956—2006

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Papua New Guinea 1956 – 2006

Teresa A Flaherty RSM

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This historical book commemorates fifty years of the Sisters of Mercy in missionary work in Papua New Guinea. After World War II Romolo Carboni, the Apostolic Delegate of Oceania, pleaded for missionaries to help rebuild the Church in the Pacific. At the invitation of the Bishops in New Guinea, and in the missionary spirit of their Foundress, Catherine McAuley, four Sisters of Mercy left for Goroka in 1956 and seven headed for Wewak in 1957.

In a country of rapid change, there was much to do in education, health and pastoral and social ministries. More Sisters arrived to work in the Goroka, Wewak, Simbu, Mount Hagen, Enga, Port Moresby, Aitape and other dioceses. They stood with and for the people in times of struggle on their road to national identity and Independence. Imbued with the spirit of renewal of Vatican II, the Sisters worked at grassroots and higher levels of Church and Government institutions.

In time, indigenous young women, graced with their diverse and rich Melanesian cultures and values, followed their call to live more deeply in the Spirit of Mercy as Sisters. As their numbers grew and those of the expatriate Sisters declined, they took increasing responsibility for leadership of the Sisters of Mercy on mission in Papua New Guinea. By the end of the fifty-year period, the autonomous Region of the Sisters of Mercy PNG was in the hands of the first national leader, Sister Mariska Kua.

The book introduces the reader to many seemingly ordinary people from Australia and Papua New Guinea who were called at 'turning points' in their lives to respond with courage to the needs of others living in cultures different from their own. In doing so, they passed on new and challenging ways of living the mystery of Christ's mission in the world.

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### "Crossings in Mercy"

is published by the  
Sisters of Mercy  
Papua New Guinea Region  
whose mission work is with people in need (including refugees) in health care, education services and pastoral and social ministries

A particular focus is on empowering girls, women and families in remote rural and urban areas and on the Millennium Development Goals to halve world poverty by 2015

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THE STORY OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY  
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