

DIRECTIONS 2010

Seeds to be **nourished within and by** the Congregation

Nourishing our **ministry** seeds

Let God be made visible in our being and in our action.

Let us acknowledge, support and rejoice in our collective giftedness.

Let us explore the theological, biblical, spiritual and scientific underpinnings of our individual ministries.

We will continue to:

- provide opportunities to develop our Mercy spirituality, personal and communal
- study and reflect on the theological, biblical, spiritual underpinnings of our ministries
- affirm the value of prayer and Eucharist in/for ministry
- tell the Mercy story of ministering as a way of passing it on
- affirm and celebrate each sister's ministry.

Nourishing our **theological reflection** seed

We will continue to employ Theological Reflection:

- as a way of discerning new ministries
- as our way to inform important decision making.

Nourishing our seeds of **communion**

Let us be conscious of the culture where we are planted.

Let us nourish our emerging understanding of community.

Let us enter our networks of communion and foster connectedness through formal and informal gatherings and technology.

Let us share our experiences of living with uncertainty.

Conscious of our existing culture, we will continue to:

- nourish our developing understanding of community by gathering formally and informally to talk about our experiencing of living with change
- gently open the inner self to the reality of on-going uncertainty
- foster connectedness via technology
- acknowledge both our personal and collective shadow through our shared prayer and ritual recognising that the shadow holds potential for growth.
- attend to forgiveness as a towering work of Mercy.

Nourishing **Eucharistic** seeds in the communities in which we live

Let us develop an ever deepening understanding of Eucharist and its centrality in our lives and the lives of others.

We will:

- take steps to deepen our understanding of Eucharist and its centrality in our lives
- work with Church authorities towards making the celebration of Eucharist central and meaningful in people's lives.

Nourishing seeds of **Mercy ethos** for all who work and share ministry with us

We will continue to:

- promote further sharing, expanding, exploring of the Mercy Spirit as inspired by Catherine with co-workers and all who choose Mercy as a way of being in the world
- renew our invitation to young people to be active with us as witnesses to Mercy in their spheres of influence
- express our delight in and mutual support of the Mercy Associate entity.

Nourishing seeds of **inquiry into newer understandings of the Universe**

We will:

- be receptive to new insights into cosmology and a deeper awareness of the God of Mystery.

Nourishing seeds of **social justice** within our local communities

We will:

- focus on social justice in a formalised way by:
 - deepening our understanding of Catholic social justice principles
 - becoming familiar with social justice issues through reading and group discussion
 - participating in action for justice.

Seeds to be **planted within and by** the Congregation

Nourishing and planting seeds of **openness and enthusiasm** towards becoming part of a new canonical structure

Under the guidance of Institute leadership let us enthusiastically accept the challenge of finding a new way to live Mercy within the emerging structure.

Let us begin to 'try-on' our new identity as 'Bigger Mercy' as it emerges through our discussions and deliberations with the other congregations.

Grounded in a familiarity with our own oral history and culture, let us engender mutual welcome and openness among congregations.

Let us take the initiative to set up informal opportunities to come to understand, respect and value the diverse cultures that exist across congregations and the potential richness acquired as these cultures blend.

We will:

- record the oral history of our congregation in order to gain a deeper appreciation of our culture
- be enthusiastic participants in developing a new structure for the one canonical congregation
- engage appropriate facilitation in preparing for and coping with change in the living structure of the new congregation
- encourage and participate willingly in formal and informal networking with members of other congregations
- experiment with modes of operating that our new identity will entail as these emerge.

Nourishing and planting new seeds of **prophetic voice and political action**

We will:

- join with others in speaking out and taking action on urgent and critical issues such as climate change, sustainable living, refugees, asylum seekers, violence against women and human trafficking.