



Dear Sisters of Mercy

Letters to the Sisters of Mercy from the Mini Mercies at Mercedes College



Just recently I read the book 'Dear Pope Francis'. It was just wonderful reading all the beautiful letters from children around the world to Pope Francis. It was then that I realised that I had been given a set of letters from Year 8 students at Mercedes College who had written letters to the Sisters of Mercy. I thought these letters were so wonderful that all our Sisters should get the opportunity to read them.

The letters are written by a group of girls (mostly 12 year olds) who have chosen to be part of the Mini Mercies' group set up by staff at Mercedes College. The two staff members responsible for running Mini Mercies, Tania Merrey and Rosemary Wiley, as an after-school activity, are to be congratulated. The girls meet once a fortnight for a period of one and a half hours. They do a variety of activities. Once or twice a year I get invited to talk to the Mini Mercies, so I see at firsthand how the girls respond. I'm thoroughly convinced that Mercy is alive and well for many, many people and for years to come. In the Year of Mercy and the 170th celebration of the establishment of Mercedes College we, as Sisters of Mercy, know that our young Mercedes girls are being beautifully integrated into the tradition of Mercy.



Dear Sisters

Thank you for the amazing space that you have provided for us Mini Mercies! We really appreciate all you've done for our Mercedes College community. Without you, Sisters, we would not be here at Mercedes College enjoying ourselves in a club and celebrating our school's 170th history. I am truly inspired by all of your work. The fact that you have built a whole school community with very little foundation money is amazing! You are very humble and hearing quotes from Catherine McAuley really teaches me how to be humble and have humility just like you. I hope to one day become an inspiring feminist like you!

Annabelle Michelon

Dear Sisters,

Thank you Sisters for this comfortable and cosy place that is in the Mercy Heritage Centre where we can share a comfortable cup of tea and a few biscuits amongst the impressive history of the Sisters of Mercy. Thank you for all that you have contributed and all that you continue to contribute to our school, Mercedes College. Every day we learn how much Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy have done for all the men, women and children in need in Australia and elsewhere. We, as a school, are greatly indebted to you all for what you have done in the past to provide us with this history that we are now proud to call our own.

Thank you

Elena Popff-Asotoff



Dear Sisters

I am honoured to be a part of the Mercedes heritage especially because it is the 170th Anniversary! I am proud to be a Mercedes lady and to have the opportunity to live the Mercy values. You gave us all of these things and I am grateful for everything you have done for us. We have learnt a lot about Catherine McAuley and how she put others before herself. To celebrate her we drink cups of tea and learn how to be humble.

Sincerely

Cíara Fraser

Dear Sisters

Through us being in this Sacred Space you are always inspiring the Mini Mercies to live with selflessness and compassion.

Your works have been sustained in the Heritage Centre which makes it feel like you are always here with us, teaching us the message of Mercy.

You have sustained the humble, merciful message in the Heritage Centre that Catherine McAuley taught you.

Kind regards,

Lucía Cronín

Dear Sisters

I feel very honoured to be in the same space as you were in. I am honoured to be able to be in the same home, Church and life which was your Convent many years ago.

I might not be a Sister of Mercy as you are, but the Mini Mercy Community come together not as friends, classmates or enemies, but as Sisters, as one! We love and cherish the items you made sacred for us.

We learn how you were treated and your humble life as a Sister as well as what you have suffered for being a Sister.

We feel your spirit and the spirit of all past Sisters every time we come together.

Love from

Daniela Iazzi



Dear Sisters

It means so much to me to be having a cup of tea in exactly the same place that you had all those years ago. I am always filled with reverence and respect every time I go into the Mercy Heritage Centre.

I am honoured to walk the same halls as all the wonderful Sisters walked in the past. I am pleasantly surprised when I hear about all of the wonderful things you do for people less fortunate than me. It has made me more grateful. You have taught me that even when the time is dark you can just give a little Mercy and it will be light.

Alice Farley

Dear Sisters

Thank you so much for the heritage of Mercedes College and the Heritage Centre. It means so much to me that you've kept many things the same because there's generations of my family who went to Mercedes College.

This school is such an amazing and gorgeous school that you have created. The Heritage Centre is such a humble and beautiful place especially all the rooms that are significant to you. You've done an amazing job of keeping this a wonderful place. Thank you.

Lara Toohey

Dear Sisters

I am honoured to be a part of the Mercedes heritage especially in this year of the 170th Anniversary. I am proud to be a Mercedes lady and with the help of you all I have the opportunity to live in Mercy.

Every second Tuesday Year 8 girls in the Mini Mercies community share a humble cup of tea in order to celebrate Catherine McAuley. We talk about the Mercy works around the world and learn also about the heritage of Mercedes College. I would like to thank you for everything you have done for us. I would like to thank you for allowing us to use the Heritage Centre.

Sincerely Ehlana Olivier.

Dear Sisters

I am honoured and grateful to be able to go to the school that you built and sustained. It is inspiring how you, the Sisters of Mercy, are so compassionate and humble. It is hard to believe that without your past actions, Mercedes wouldn't be the same happy and enjoyable place that it is today. Thank you for leaving behind such a rich heritage and a positive example to follow.

Simona Rocca

Dear Sisters

Thanks for this amazing space that we are using today. Without you, we would not be able to be here in this building or even at Mercedes College. You are inspiring women and we appreciate you teaching us how to be humble. We all strive to live and learn in your ways and then we can be like you.

Mia Robertson

Dear Sisters

I can't even imagine how hard it would have been to continue your work under the conditions you lived in, but yet, others were still helped before you even thought about yourselves.

As part of the Mini Mercies group, I'm still trying to wrap my head around the fact that I am allowed to sit in and enjoy the same space as the Sisters lived in. How lucky am I? It's wonderful that you allow people to enjoy the history of this wonderful building. The way it's kept so neat and preserved as if the nuns are still living there. To me, Mercy is just what Mercedes is all about. This year I am focussing on being who I am as a nice person and living out the Mercy values. So, thank you for helping me by setting an example to follow.

Love Elizabeth Kelleher

Dear Sisters

I am very grateful that you have let us use this Sacred Space, the Mercy Heritage Centre, for our educational purposes. The things that we have learnt and will learn about our school's Mercy heritage is truly inspiring to every young lady at this school. Thank you for helping establish this wonderful school and thank you for giving every young girl a chance to reach her full potential.

Ayesha Gadsdon

Dear Sisters

Thank you for creating the Mercy Heritage Centre. We are able to come together as a community in this space that you created for us so that we can have a comfortable cup of tea and some biscuits. We all really appreciate this lovely building, and we enjoy learning about Catherine McAuley, the Sisters of Mercy, and all the love history you have left behind.

Thank you. Allison Lo

Dear Sisters

I want to thank you for continuing the service of Catherine McAuley. Your work is truly appreciated every day by everyone. Many young girls and women grow up admiring the positive messages that the Sisters of Mercy spread! I am very thankful for the opportunities you have given me. Wishing you all the best for the future.

Amy Saito

Dear Sisters

Mercy and the Mercy Convent are important to me because they are both a part of my education at Mercedes College. Mercy enables me to learn about the history of our school, Mercedes College, and all of the amazing work which the Sisters of Mercy did. Through being a part of the Mini Mercies and by exploring the Mercy Convent, I can reconnect with the past nuns and understand a bit of what life was like for them.

"Mercy is more than charity." Catherine McAuley

Alisha Newton

Dear Sisters

To me this Mercy Convent is very special. It is a place where I can reflect on what life was like for the Sisters back in the old days. One thing that really shocked me was that when you joined the Sisters of Mercy, you were not allowed to see your family for years. I can't imagine how I would cope being in the same positions as the Sisters. I really appreciate what all of the Sisters have done to contribute to Mercedes College.

Emily Davidson

Dear Sisters

You are some of the greatest women ever! You do such great things for the community. I have recently joined the Mini Mercies at my school. I have learnt so much about your great works. You give so much to others and are truly women of Mercy. It is because of what you have done that we have been able to have the Heritage Centre. I've learnt about the living conditions you lived in and I can imagine how hard it would have been for you. You are great role models for many girls today.

Christine Nguyen

Dear Sisters

I am very proud to be a Mercedes lady preserving the history of the Sisters of Mercy. I've learnt a lot about how hard it was to live in the Mercy Heritage Centre and what you had to wear. I have so many questions to ask as a Mini Mercy. I hope to one day to meet some Sisters of Mercy and fulfil my curiosity. I love learning about the history of the Mercy Heritage Centre and I hope to learn much more in the future.

Hannah Nguyen

Dear Sisters

Thank you for all of your work you have done in the past. Mercy to me means to care or to help one another. Mercedes College, the school which I attend, is celebrating a 170 years. That is a lot of history! I think it is amazing that such a legacy is still continuing on. When I am older I will help as much as I can to make sure the legacy lasts forever! Thank you. Marisa Rocca

Dear Sisters

I am honoured to be a part of the 170th Anniversary of Mercedes College. I could not have been a part of this history without the help of you. The school you created is amazing and I am so lucky to be going to Mercedes College. I know it is a gift to go to Mercedes College and I wish more than anything for every child in the world to get the opportunity I have. Thank you for allowing us Mini Mercies to learn about what you have done in this sacred space where you carried out your day to day lives. I know I need to put every effort into my school work and I will try really hard to do this. I wish you all a very enjoyable year of celebrations and many happy memories.

Rachael Jade Stevenson



Dear Sisters

I am honoured to be a part of the Mini Mercies. We come to the Heritage Centre every second Tuesday and learn about the deep history of Mercedes College. I am very lucky to look and walk around the same place where you, the original Sisters of Mercy lived many years ago.

Dear Sisters

Thank you for this beautiful Heritage Centre that we are able to enjoy now. This is where we can join together for a comfortable cup of tea. We can also admire the history of this wonderful and interesting building. Learning about Catherine McAuley has taught me that you should always love and help people, no matter what. Thank you.



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