



**Address by Eveline Crotty RSM,
Institute Leader**

Translated into Tok Pisin by Gaye Lennon RSM.

On this day, six years ago, the coming together of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea was celebrated. At the time I, among others, watched and waited with anticipation to join you all in this new Institute. It was a few months later with excitement that we became members to continue our journey with you of living Catherine's gift to us – a life called to "Mercy."

Six years later we celebrated again with the completion of our first Institute Chapter. During the Chapter gathering five of us were called by the delegates to leadership on your behalf to walk with you as we continue our journey of Mercy. We bring to you all of who we are. You have called us to explore together, sisters and colleagues, a way forward relevant to our varying contexts, to expand our understanding and live the ideal of our Chapter Mandate in our everyday lives.

Today we are in the season of Advent. Each year we wait in hope for the birth of Jesus. We recall that Mary and Joseph, at the time, were being called to new life roles as guides, teachers, and contemplatives in action to nurture this young boy to be the best of who he could be to carry out God's mission.

No matter our particular vocation in life, we too are called to be guides, teachers, healers, listeners, carers, contemplatives in action. Most of all, we need to be wisdom figures who can sit and listen, particularly to those who ask us for a listening ear and are in most need.

We are each called to two ideals. Firstly, to be the most authentic person we can be regardless of our age, talents or gifts. And secondly, to bring this to life as 'mercy in action' wherever we are in our community, family, workplace, and society at large.

The most vulnerable in our world today, Earth and all its creatures and those affected by its degradation and displacement cry out for our attention. We want to work with you all on the Mandate handed to us from the Chapter to bring it to life. We need the leadership, enthusiasm, and sincerity of you all to make this happen.

I personally and behalf of all in the Institute wish to thank you - Berneice, Annette, Barbara, Theresia and Sally for the firm foundations that they have made in bringing this fledging Institute together to further the Mission of God in our world today. We are ever grateful to each of you. *We would like you to receive this gift of behalf of all of us in the Institute.*

May God's love for each of us, stir our hearts every day with enthusiasm. No matter where we are, may the most vulnerable in our world be able to say to each of us personally "You stood beside me, felt my pain and look how we both have been transformed."

May the peace of Christ continue to disturb us as we go forth.

Long dispela de, sikspela yia i go pinis, mipela i bin selebretim bung bilong mipela olsem Institute bilong Sistas long Mercy bilong Australia na Papua New Guinea. Long dispela taim, mi wantaim sompela sista, mi bin lukluk na wetim long bung wantaim yupela olgeta long dispela niupela Institute. Long sampela mun bihain, mipela wantaim bikpela amanas I bin kamap memba na mipela i statim wokabaut wantaim yupela long givim laip long dispela present bilong Catherine long mipela – dispela laip, mipela i kolim ‘Mercy’ o “Marimari”.

Nau, long sixpela yia bihain, mipela i selebret gen long pinisim namba wan Saptu bilong mipela. Long dispela Saptu, ol delegates I singautim mipela, faifpela sista, long kamap lida bilong yupela long wokabaut wantaim yupela long rot long marimari. Mipela kam wantaim olgeta bel na hat na lewa bilong mipela. Yupela makim mipela long bung wantaim ol sista na ol meri na man i wok wantaim mipela, long laip bilong wanwan, bai work i go ahēt long lukautim na bihainim Saptu Mandate long laip bilong mipela.

Tude, mipela i stap long taim bilong Advent. Wanwan yia, mipela i wetim Jisas i kam wantaim hop. Long dispela taim, mipela i tingim Maria na Yosep i harim singaut long niupela laip olsem wasmeri na wasman na tisa ol i redi long lukautim na soim gutpela rot na pasin long dispela niupela pikinini na helpim em long kamap gutpela pikinini long karim wok bilong God.

Maski kainkain vokeisen bilong yumi, God I singautim yumi olgeta long kamap wasmeri, wasman, tisa, hila, meri o man i putim gut iau na lukautim narapela na soim gutpela pasin. Moa yet, mipela i mas kamap savemeri na saveman husat inap sindaun na harim tok long ol husat i gat hevi na wari.

Mipela wanwan igat tupela bikpela samting. Namba wan samting, mipela i ken soim mipela i husat tru tru, maski mipela i lapun o yangpela, maski mipela i gat planti talent o liklik. Namba tu, mipela i ken soim dispela long laip olsem “wok marimari long aksen” long wanem hap mipela i stap long en; long komuniti, femili, wokples na societi.

Tude, mipela i lukim graun na olgeta samting long en i wok long bagarap na wetim helpim bilong mipela. Mipela i laik wok bung wantaim yupela olgeta long Mandate bilong Saptu, bai ol wok bilong mipela i ken kamap gut na givim laip. Mipela i nidim lidasip, mipela i nidim amamas na strong, na mipela i nidim trupela supot bilong yupela bai ol dispela samting i kamap.

Mi yet, na ol arapela bilong Institut, mipela i laik tok tenyu Berneice, Annette, Barbara, Theresa na Sally long mekim gutpela tru faundeisen long mekim dispela Institute i kamap wan long wokim wok misin bilong God i go ahēt long dispela wold tude. Mipela i pulap long amamas long wanwan bilong yupela. (mipela i laik bai yupela kisim dispela present long nem bilong mipela na ol memba bilong Institut)

Laik bilong God i ken kirapim paia long hat bilong mipela long mekim wok marimari wantaim bel isi na amamas. Maski, long wanem hap mipela i stap na wok, bai ol lain i panim hevi o bagarap, ol i ken tok long mipela wanwan, *‘Yu stap klostu long mi, yu pilim pen wantaim mi na lukim mipela olgeta i sensis.’*

Bel isi bilong Krast i ken kirapim tingting na bel bilong mipela long mekim wok bilong mipela igo ahēt.