





**F**ormation is something we do to enhance our capacity for involvement in mission and ministry in the Institute. It is much more than training and education because it is about the internalisation of values, attitudes and ways of seeing, and the maturation of faith and spirituality.

Since the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG) was formed in 2011, enlivening its capacity for mission has been a priority for all members. This mission is carried out in a number of countries by sisters, partners in our mercy mission, associates, and many others who share a commitment to mercy.

This FLAME framework has been developed for all of these people. Its purpose is to facilitate engagement with the God of mercy manifest in the scriptures, with the life of Catherine McAuley, and with the God of mercy experienced through our own receiving and giving of mercy.

The framework shapes the development of a process for formation in mercy. This process is relational, providing opportunities for individuals and groups

across our Institute to learn with and from one another in a spirit of mutuality and complementarity. It is implemented through processes of reflection, conversation and action.

Programs, resources and opportunities are available across the Institute, offered in a variety of ways, and able to be accessed by leaders, managers, board members and chairs, staff, participants in young mercy programs, associates and sisters. Some offerings may be specific to particular groups within the Institute and others would be open to participants across different groups. The topic/content can be offered at an on-going deepening level according to the readiness and needs of participants.

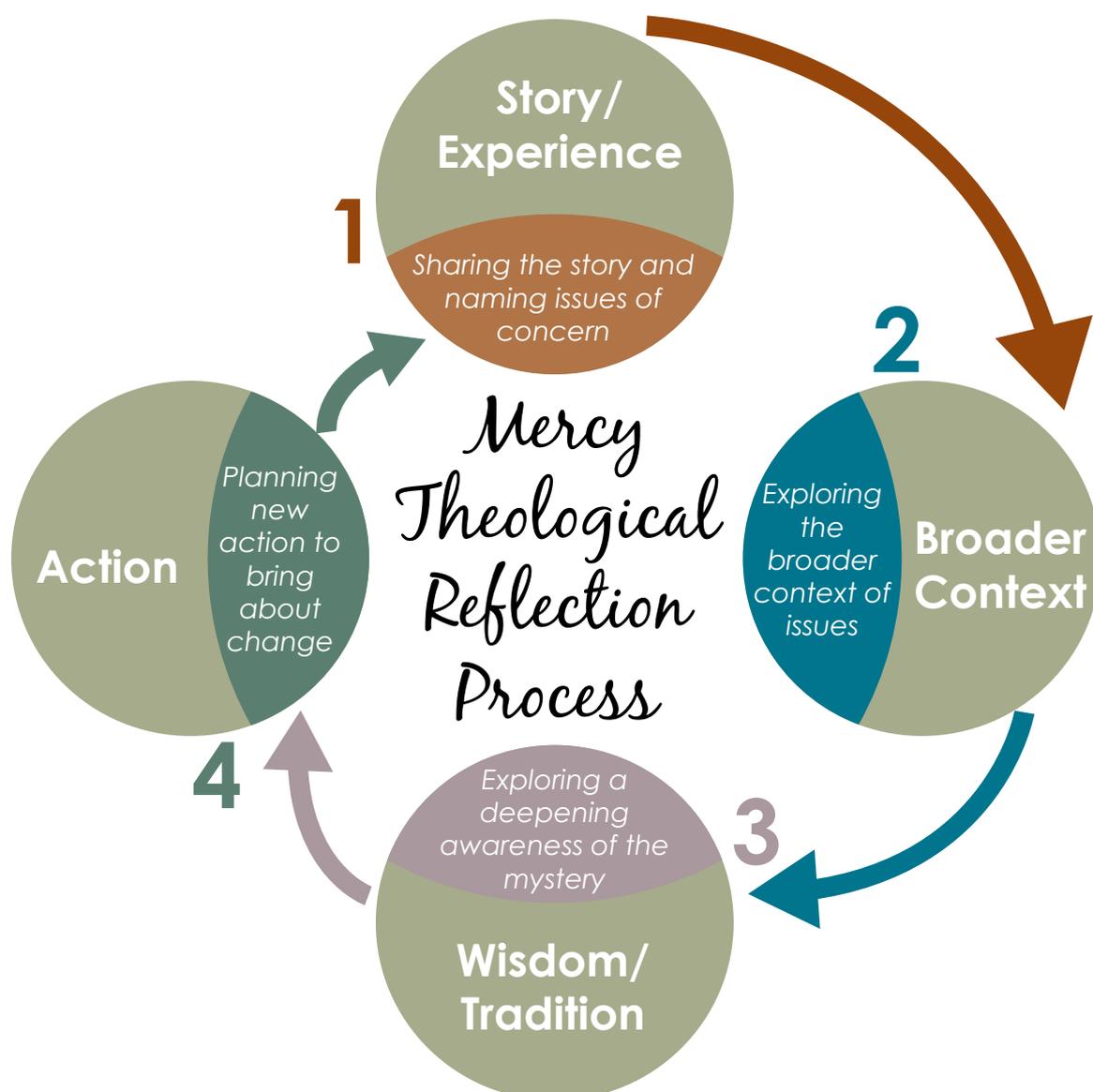
We recognise that people will enter into the program at different stages of their life journey and from a variety of backgrounds in our socially and culturally diverse society. While explicitly Catholic, the program welcomes those from other faith traditions and no faith affiliation.

# Our aim for FLAME

Our aim for FLAME within our Institute is the nurturing of a culture of mercy for the sake of mission.

Key principles underpinning all programs and processes in Faith, Life and Ministry Education:

- Reflective of the relational characteristics of mercy in God, in ourselves and in our relationships with others
- Infused with the recognition of the first peoples of our lands and their wisdom traditions past and present
- Grounded within the Catholic tradition both historically and contemporarily
- Appreciative of the diversity of traditions and experiences that characterize all within the Institute
- Attentive to the cry of earth and of the poor in light of Laudato Si' and its ecological imperatives that call us into new ways of living and of mission
- Characterised by mentoring in the ways of mercy.
- Modelled on the Mercy Theological Reflection process.



# Core Elements and Content for the **FLAME** Framework

## Engaging the stories of Mercy

1. Stories of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy from Catherine's time and across history to sisters in Australia and Papua New Guinea
2. Deepening understanding through pilgrimage to Baggot Street and/or contemporary sites of key mercy mission
3. Understanding of Catherine's leadership qualities and their relevance today
4. Bringing various aspects of Catherine's story into dialogue with key challenges in mercy ministry today in all its varieties in the Institute
5. Engaging how scripture informed Catherine's commitment to Mercy and impelled her undertaking of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy
6. Nurturing charism through personal witness and action
7. Developing a sense of the global Mercy network and our place within it

## Impelling reflective action for earth and its people

1. Developing a deeper analysis of the cry of earth and the cry of the poor
2. Deepening understanding of the link between stewardship of resources and the cry of earth and of the poor
3. Exploring potential for ethical mercy engagement
4. Engaging in pilgrimages and programs that lead to responding to the urgent needs of our time

## Developing a reflective stance towards the cries of Mercy

1. Deepening understanding of ISMAPNG's Chapter Statement
2. Engaging in dialogue with science, the Universe story and the first peoples of Oceania
3. Understanding the important role that discernment plays in guiding and developing conscience
4. Critiquing of our attitudes and actions as they impact on the lives of others
5. Modelling reflective practice, theological reflection, prayer and worship.
6. Leading action/reflection processes and contemplative practices

## Sustaining integrity in Mercy mission

1. Understanding of the significance of Professional Standards for ongoing mercy ministry
2. Understanding the requirements for good governance of ministries operated by ISMAPNG in the name of the Church, including the canonical and civil dimensions
3. Examining contemporary organisational issues through the lens of mercy
4. Personal commitment to professional, personal and spiritual development
5. Stewardship of resources for the sake of mission
6. Building leadership for mission across the Institute and across Mercy ministries.
7. Enhancing mutual relationships with the Catholic Church

## Encountering the God of Mercy

1. Giving and receiving mercy in everyday life
2. Exploring Catholic identities through the lens of mercy
3. Biblical, theological and ecclesial foundations of mission and mercy
4. Deepening awareness of the mystery of the Divine in all creation
5. Catholic Social Teaching as a guide for mission
6. Spirituality of leadership
7. Mission and the engagement of the Catholic Church with the contemporary world

## For More Information

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