

# GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP FORMATION

**Session 4 – Engagement with the Trustee  
Directors of Mercy Ministry Companions**



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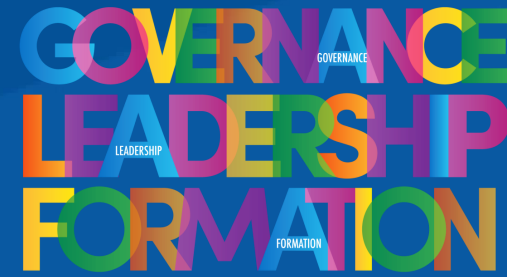
**Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM**

**Online Governance Forum, July 2021**



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# Statement of Mission Purpose for Mercy Ministry Companions

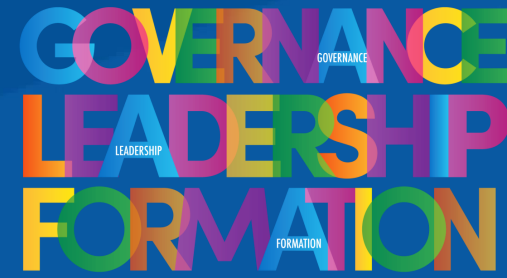


- ❑ ISMAPNG's Second Chapter envisaged a new era for the stewardship of the Institute's ministries, requesting the newly elected Institute Leadership Team (ILT) to explore different options for their governance "so that they can flourish into the future"
- ❑ The Future Governance Working Party (FGWP) was established in August 2018 by ILT to review options for future canonical governance of the ministries, to make a recommendation to ILT on a preferred arrangement, and to develop a transition plan for that new arrangement



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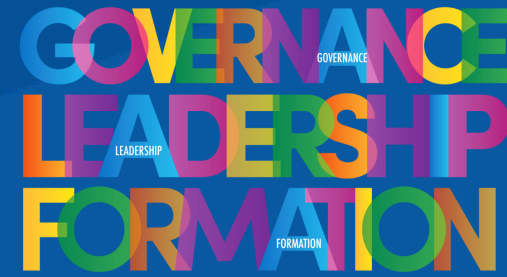
The FGWP separated its work into three domains:

- ❑ Reflection on the mission of Mercy and, through a discernment process, formulation of the **mission purpose statement** to guide the establishment of new canonical governance and the initial mission focus of new canonical leaders
- ❑ Consideration of 17 canonical governance options for the ministries. Following due consideration, FGWP recommended to ILT establishment of a new ministerial PJP by the Holy See
- ❑ Testing future arrangements with leaders of ISMAPNG's ministries, Institute members and members and trustees of other PJPs



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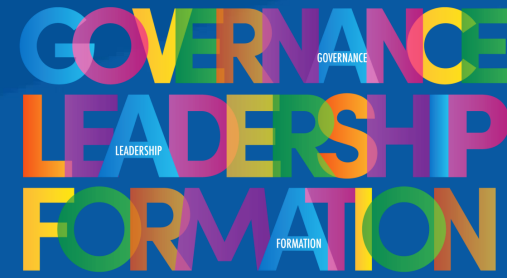


- The new ministerial PJPs have been established as a way to maintain the mission and identity of Catholic institutions
- They are the official link between ministries and the Church, just as their instigating religious orders were in the past
- Church entities that have official canonical status are juridic persons—e.g. a diocese, religious order, parish. Historically, religious order PJPs were founded for sanctification of their members, even if they also undertook various ministries
- Today's new juridic persons are founded primarily for the sake of ministry – thus, the title ministerial public juridic persons



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## Exploration of the Statement of Mission Purpose for Mercy Ministry Companions

We remind ourselves that Mercy-inspired ministries:

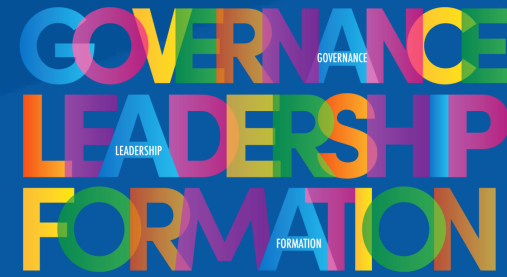
- continue the ministry of Jesus
- are works of the Catholic Church
- evolve the Mercy tradition of Catherine McAuley
- respond to Jesus' call to apostolic service

“An institution is Catholic if it is, in reality, a ‘sacrament’, i.e. a sign and an instrument, of the ongoing presence of Christ in the world and the place of encounter with this Christ” – Archbishop Tim Costelloe sdb (2009) *Theoretical Underpinnings of Catholic Identity*



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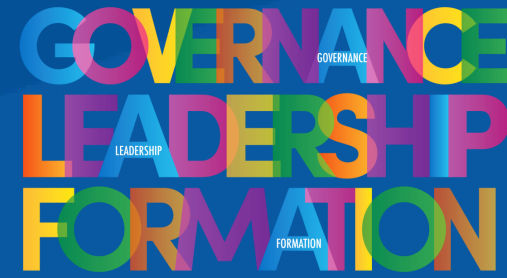
## Exploration of the Statement of Mission Purpose for Mercy Ministry Companions cont.

- Since 1846 Sisters of Mercy in Australia have responded to the signs of the times “to ensure that God can be Mercy for others”
- The mission into the future builds on the rich heritage of the Institute and its predecessors
- To be faithful to the mission and flourish into the future, Mercy ministries must continue to be responsive to need
- The “gift of mercy” will find new expressions of service in contemporary and future Australian communities



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# Statement of Mission Purpose for Mercy Ministry Companions



## Exploration of the Statement of Mission Purpose for Mercy Ministry Companions cont.

- ❑ MMC Trustee Directors, Board Directors, executives and those serving in the ministries are called to embody the compassion, hospitality, integrity, care, justice, practicality and service which characterise the Mercy heritage – they are contemporary channels of Mercy
- ❑ Through ongoing formation, they deepen their understanding of continuing the ministry of Jesus and the passion of Catherine McAuley to serve those at the margins; “to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (Pope Francis, 2015 *Laudato Si'*, n.49)



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## Exploration of the Statement of Mission Purpose for Mercy Ministry Companions cont.

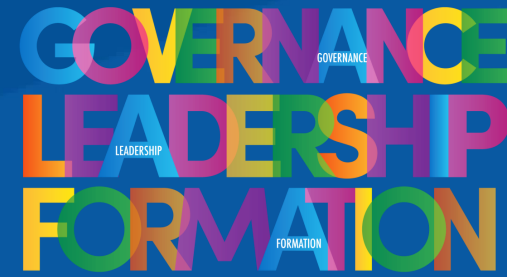
- ❑ In all deliberations the mission of MMC must be the prime focus – we have to engage continually with questions such as:
  - ❖ “Are the ministries truly Gospel-focused and how will we know?” (Sr Eveline Crotty rsm, May 2021)
  - ❖ “How does this decision affect the mission?”
- ❑ We have to maintain the mission as the senior partner in creative dialogue with the ‘business’ (Fr Gerry Arbuckle sm)





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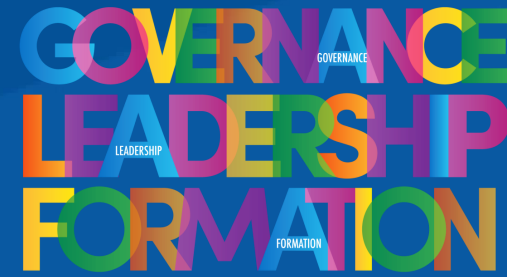
## Exploration of the Statement of Mission Purpose for Mercy Ministry Companions cont.

- ❑ Leaders of Mercy ministries use their prophetic voice to seek justice within the Church and the wider society, to address poverty, exclusion, inequality and vulnerability
- ❑ Mercy ministries of Education, Health and Aged Care, Community Services and Advocacy have a commitment to:
  - ❖ excellence and innovation
  - ❖ collaborations for the sake of the mission
  - ❖ *communio* within, across and beyond the ministries



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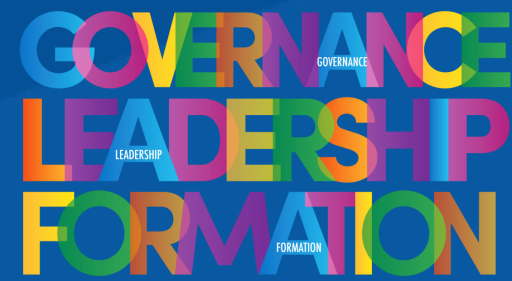
## Exploration of the Statement of Mission Purpose for Mercy Ministry Companions cont.

- “The love with which Catholic [ministry] is performed and its professional excellence have the value of a sign testifying to the Christian view of the human person” – Pope John Paul II (1987) *Address to the Leaders in Catholic Health Care*
- “Being Church means being God’s people ... The Church (and more specifically for us, the ministries of Mercy) must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel” – Pope Francis (2013) *Evangelii Gaudium*, n.114

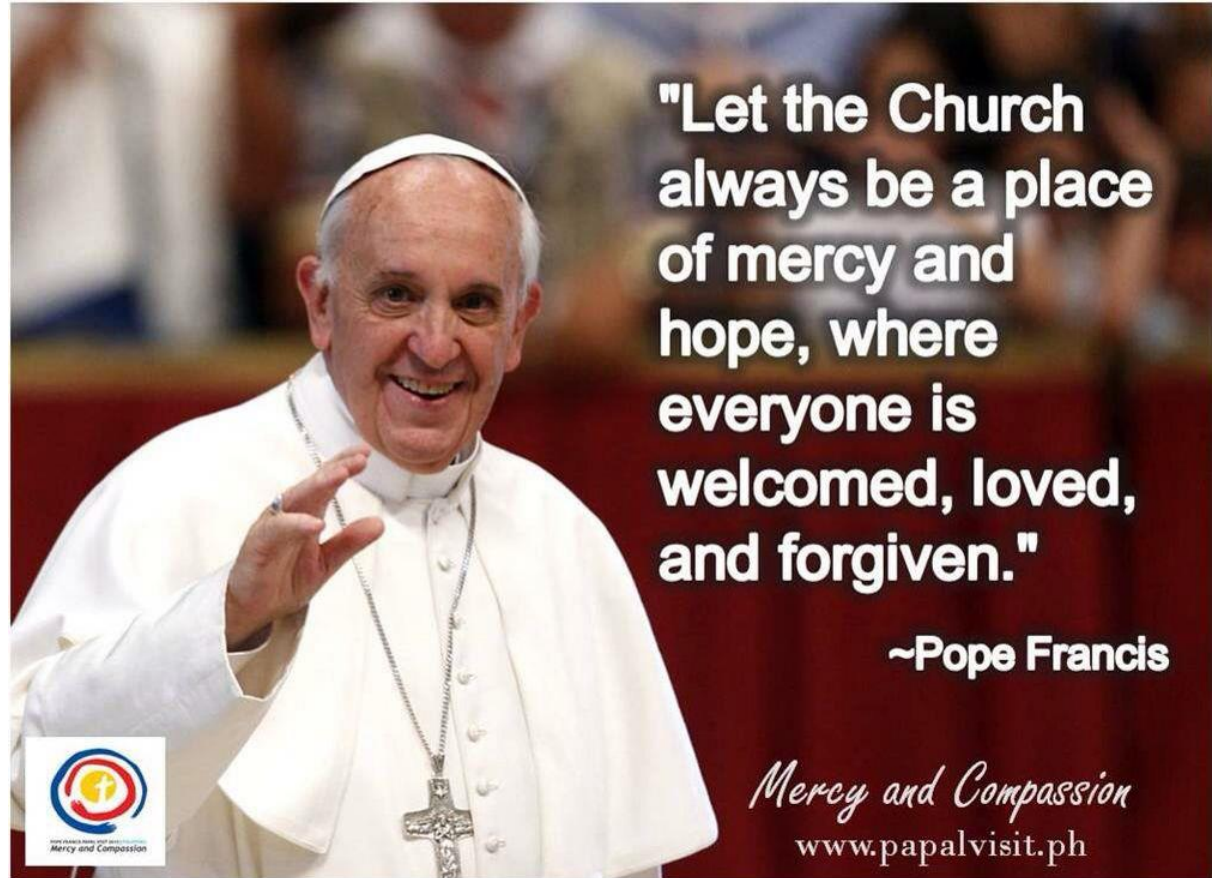


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# Statement of Mission Purpose for Mercy Ministry Companions



Reflecting on  
Pope Francis' insights in  
relation to  
Mercy, how  
is Mercy  
manifest in  
your  
ministry?



**"Let the Church  
always be a place  
of mercy and  
hope, where  
everyone is  
welcomed, loved,  
and forgiven."**

**~Pope Francis**

*Mercy and Compassion*  
[www.papalvisit.ph](http://www.papalvisit.ph)

