The proclamation of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy beginning 8 December, 2015, provides us with a profound call to explore Mercy anew in a world in which the other-than-human together with the human cry out for such mercy.

We know “[h]ow many uncertain and painful situations there are in the world today;” but we also hold firmly that “from the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly”.

Mercy International Association invites each of you to enter into the grace and challenge of this contemplative space and to join in an International Reflection Process during the Jubilee year so that we can discern together globally a shared response to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor, thus flaming the fire of Mercy in us and in our Universe.

The urgency of the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor that we hear daily is set before the church and world by Pope Francis in the Encyclical – Laudato Si’ (June 18, 2015)

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How to Participate in the Mercy International Reflection Process

Sisters and Partners-in-Mercy are invited to participate in the Mercy International Reflection Process as Local Facilitators and/or as Group Members ‘to discern together globally a shared response to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor.’ Those interested are expected to form their own groups.

Local Facilitators
Each small group will need a facilitator. The role of a Local Facilitator is to guide a small local group through the four stages of the reflection process. To enable facilitators to do this, a resource is being developed that explains each stage of the process. Follow-up support will be provided by the Institute Coordinator.

Some Specific Tasks of the Local Facilitator:

- Inform the Institute Coordinator of the formation of your small group.
- Work with the Institute Coordinator to ensure that you understand the reflection process and are comfortable in the role of group facilitator.
- Plan the meeting timetable with the local group within the schedule for the Year of Mercy.
- Guide group members in moving through the four stages of the reflection process.
- Take notes of the group’s outcomes at each stage of the process.
- Communicate to the Institute Coordinator the group’s outcomes from each stage of the process, according to instructions that will be provided.

Group Member
The role of a Group Member is to actively participate in the small group over the four stages of the reflection process. Arrangements for the times and locations for the group to meet will be jointly decided by the facilitator and group members. The approximate time estimated for each stage of the process is 6 hours face-to-face time spread across the period February/March to October/November, for a total of 24 hours, although that can be flexible based on any group’s particular make-up and needs.

Some Specific Tasks of the Group Member:

- Share with the group an issue of personal concern on the theme ‘the cry of the Earth, the cry of the Poor.’
- Work with the facilitator and other group members to decide on an issue of shared focus on the theme.
- Engage in analysis of the issue, utilizing resources provided and others contributed by the group.
- Explore with the group the new vision that emerges as a result of considering the issue in light of Church, Mercy and other wisdoms and traditions.
- Consider the action/s that can be taken as a result of engagement in the discussions and reflections that make up the process.

For more information about this process and to accept the invitation to participate, please contact Marianne Comfort, Institute Justice Team, at mcomfort@sistersofmercy.org who is serving as the Institute Coordinator for this process.
MERCY INTERNATIONAL REFLECTION PROCESS

Stages of the Process

Stage 1
Story/Experience
Sharing the Story and Naming Issues of Concern
February/March - June

Stage 2
Broader Context
Exploring the Broader Context of the Issues – the Social, Scientific, Environmental, Political, Cultural and Economic Spheres
February/March - June

Stage 3
Wisdom/Tradition
Engaging anew with the Biblical, Theological, Spiritual, Ecclesial and Mercy Traditions
July - August/September

Stage 4
Action
Planning New Action to bring about Change
September - November

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