



12 April 2021

Dear Sisters, Ministry Colleagues and Institute Staff,

As you are all aware, one of the tasks of the Leadership Team of the Institute has been to implement a Directive from the 2017 Chapter regarding the governance of our incorporated ministries and ensure that “they can flourish into the future.”

Through our Governance Forums and committee work we have kept you abreast of the work being carried out in this regard.

The good news I have to share with you is that the Petition for establishing Mercy Ministry Companions is now in Rome with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL). Thankfully, we were able to send it with assistance from the Apostolic Delegate in Canberra who included it in his diplomatic pouch. All being well, we hope for a response from CICLSAL by the end of July.

In the Petition, we have requested that Mercy Ministry Companions commences on 3 December 2021, the Feast of Saint Francis Xavier. Initially it will be based at Lewisham. Prior to this, its civil company will begin in July 2021.

Another piece of good news is that following a thorough process of considering applications that came to us and interviewing a large number of candidates, the Institute Council and I have recently appointed the Trustee Directors for our new Public Juridic Person, Mercy Ministry Companions. They are:

- Margaret Bounader
- Tony Goad
- Margery Jackman
- Gabrielle McMullen
- Rowena McNally
- Des Powell
- Carmel Ross

We have also appointed Margaret Bounader as Chair of the Council of Trustee Directors.

Each of these Trustee Directors elected is deeply committed to the Church, our Mercy tradition of service, and has considerable professional experience and skills which will contribute significantly to MMC (Mercy Ministry Companions), especially in its critical first years. I am confident that individually and together as a Trustee Council they will reflect the best ideals of lay leadership in the Church. We, as Sisters of Mercy, will be available for ongoing support and involved in the formation programs of MMC.

In the near future, John Rochester will prepare a video of interviews with the Trustee Directors as a way of introducing them to you.

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Over the coming months there will be further communication to you on the development of MMC. In the meantime, I ask for your continuing prayerful support for this major development in the life of our Institute.

Finally, I wish to express heartfelt gratitude to the Institute PJP Transition Group (IPTG) - David Penny, Jonathan Campton, Nicki Patten, Elizabeth Moloney RSM, Margaret Endicott RSM and Caroline Ryan RSM (Chair). With the other members of the ILT, the IPTG has taken carriage of implementing the key recommendation from the Future Governance Working Party that we establish a PJP for governance of the Institute's ministries 'so they can flourish into future'. The work of implementation has been complex in parts and has required much careful attention. I am grateful too to our canon lawyer, Mary Wright IBVM, for her wise advice.

I thank everyone for your prayerful support in this major work of the Institute over the past years.

Yours sincerely,



Sister Eveline Crotty RSM
Institute Leader