



JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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THE HEART OF OUR MISSION

MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The Most Rev Denis Hart DD Archbishop of Melbourne celebrates the opening Eucharist at St Francis Church Melbourne.

The second annual Conference of Mary Aikenhead Ministries was held at the Novotel on Collins, Melbourne on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st July 2011.

The theme of the Conference was to bring alive the person of Mary Aikenhead, the Foundress of the Sisters of Charity in Australia. We reflected on her leadership within the richness of the Catholic tradition to encourage, inspire and affirm our leaders as they integrate their professional skills with their passion and commitment for ministry.

The Conference was privileged to have as its keynote speaker Ms Juliette Marsh Williams, a theologian, canon lawyer and mother of three young daughters, from California USA.

Delegates shared in the opening Eucharist at St Francis Church Melbourne with Principal Celebrant, the Most Rev Denis Hart DD, Archbishop of Melbourne. The liturgy was enhanced by the beautiful voices of students from Catholic Ladies College Eltham. In his homily, His Grace spoke of the wonderful works of the Sisters of Charity in Melbourne now under the guidance

of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, and of his early connections with the Ministries. He congratulated the delegates as leaders for their ongoing commitment.

Fr Brendan Byrne sj, the current Rector of Jesuit Theological College and internationally renowned New Testament Scholar and author, was the conference's after dinner speaker. In a brief but intellectually challenging 20 minutes, Fr Brendan 'broke open' the Trustees' founding scripture passage Luke 4: 14 -21, which is Jesus' mission statement:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor..."

Fr Brendan reminded us that the mission we share is liberating, providing freedom not only to others but to ourselves. He also observed that the Sisters of Charity motto "*Caritas Christi urget nos*"... "*The love of Christ impels us*" when translated in original Greek becomes "*The love of Christ binds us together*".

Ms Juliette Marsh Williams' rich presentations punctuated by table discussion during Thursday morning placed the mission of Mary Aikenhead within the mission of Jesus. She reminded delegates that we continue the mission entrusted to our care led by the Spirit – a Spirit of mystery and discovery which fosters creative, providential ways for charism to be articulated and brought into action. In this way we carry on in Mary Aikenhead's spirit and hence that of the Sisters of Charity in Australia.

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THE HEART OF OUR MISSION

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Year 9 students of St Columba's College Essendon presented a dramatic snapshot of the life of Mary Aikenhead – tracing her childhood, through the commissioning of the first five sisters to Australia until her funeral celebrated by the poor of Dublin. The sensitive and dramatic portrayal kept delegates enthralled and concluded with much applause.

Delegates participated in a Q & A panel discussion hosted by Ms Marcelle Mogg of St Vincents Health Australia. The panel consisted of Trustee Sr Linda Ferrington rsc, Ms Juliette Marsh Williams, Mr Bill Fitzsimmons of St Columba's College and Mr Steve Rubic of St Vincents & Mater Health.

The afternoon concluded with a moving Missioning Ritual where delegates were presented with a newly created Mary Aikenhead Ministries lapel pin as a symbol of their ongoing commitment to the work of the Ministries.

The Trustees sincerely thank the members of the Conference Organising Group and their affiliated groups of Content, Logistics and Liturgy for their untiring efforts and expertise. Special thanks to all service providers and supporters and delegates for their participation and to those who provided constructive feedback post-Conference.

David Robinson

Trustee – Mary Aikenhead Ministries

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The Q&A session considered how leadership is reflected in our Ministries.



Students of St Columba's College provide a drama presentation on the life of Mary Aikenhead.



Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, left to right: Dr Tessa Ho, David Robinson, Rowena McNally, Richard Harpham, Sr Linda Ferrington rsc, Sr Elizabeth Dodds rsc (Professor Gabrielle McMullen, absent).



Juliette Marsh Williams captures the audience with her vibrant presentations.

A WARM WELCOME TO TWO NEW TRUSTEES



Professor Gabrielle McMullen.

On 1 July 2011, Mary Aikenhead Ministries welcomed two new Trustees: Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen and Dr Tessa Ho.

Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen lives in Melbourne where she completed her secondary schooling at Killester College and graduated from Monash University. Gabrielle has worked at the University of Freiburg in Germany, Monash University and Australian Catholic University.

Gabrielle is a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. Her community contributions have encompassed membership of education, health, theological and welfare boards, including St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne in 2001-2004. She convened the four national cross-sectoral Colloquia on Identity and Mission in Church-Based Organisations which were hosted by Australian Catholic University in 2007-2010.

Dr Tessa Ho is an ex-student of St Vincent's College, Potts Point and a medical graduate of the University of Sydney. Now residing in Brisbane, Tessa has a Doctorate of Medicine in Health Services Management and a particular interest in equitable and efficient health workforce training and support. Her doctorate in health economics involved the development of simulation models for casemix funding of NSW public hospitals.

Over twenty years, Tessa has had extensive involvement across the spectrum of medical training and education, as University medical

educator of undergraduate and postgraduate medical students and more recently as Associate Dean and Head of the Medical Program at the University of Sydney.

The missioning of Gabrielle and Tessa took place in a ceremony at the Sisters of Charity Congregational Office at Bondi Junction on 15 August 2011.

For more details visit:
www.maryaikenheadministries.com.au – Trustees and their Role.



Dr Tessa Ho.

PICTURE PERFECT

MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES PORTRAITS PRESENTATION

A presentation was made by Trustee Rowena McNally to Sr Annette Cunliffe rsc Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of Australia at the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries Conference "The Heart of our Mission".

The painting presented to the Sisters of Charity of Australia is half of a diptych, comprising two separate portraits of Mary Aikenhead which were commissioned by inaugural Trustee Rowena McNally.



Sr Annette Cunliffe rsc (Congregational Leader Sisters of Charity of Australia) accepts one of two paintings of Mary Aikenhead commissioned Trustee Rowena McNally to celebrate the Patronal Feast Day of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

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TRANSITION TO THE CREST



With the establishment of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, the Sisters of Charity requested that facilities within Mary Aikenhead Ministries transition to using the Crest of the new Public Juridic Person by June 2011. To honour this transition, significant rituals were celebrated across the health facilities including Darlinghurst, Auburn, North Sydney, Toowoomba, Brisbane and Fitzroy. For the Sisters of Charity the events were both a confirmation of Mary Aikenhead Ministries unique Canonical Identity, which is a source of great hope for the Church, and also a time of sadness as the Congregational Crest was replaced by the new Mary Aikenhead Ministries Crest.

The Mary Aikenhead Ministries Crest has four key elements:

- Mary Aikenhead's initials
- The flame
- The heart
- The cross

Central to the mission of God as expressed by Mary Aikenhead Ministries is Mary Aikenhead herself, as shown through her initials in the centre of the Crest. These initials represent a direct personal link and establishes the Ministries' essential characteristic of staying connected with the charism of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity. The copperplate style of the initials indicates that the Ministries are personal and relational. It also represents a connection to the Congregational Crest.

The gospel values embraced by Mary Aikenhead Ministries – love, hope, compassion and justice are reflected in the use of the heart, flame and cross – symbols which are integral to our Catholic tradition.

The Mary Aikenhead Ministries is an expression of lay ecclesial leadership which is bound together in the love of Christ which is the point of convergence with the Congregation.

Sr Linda Ferrington rsc

Trustee – Mary Aikenhead Ministries



Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries and members of the Sisters of Charity Congregational Council celebrate the transition to the Mary Aikenhead Ministries Crest at St Vincent's & Mater Health Darlinghurst Campus.

PICTURE PERFECT

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One painting depicts Mary Aikenhead as a young nun and was presented to the Sisters of Charity as a gift from Rowena McNally, on behalf of all of the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

The other painting depicts Mary Aikenhead as an older Superior-General, and was presented to Mary Aikenhead Ministries by Rowena McNally.

The presentations were made to coincide with the anniversary of the death of Mary Aikenhead and the Patronal Feast Day of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, which is celebrated by the Trustees on 22 July.

Deb Pettigrew is the Artist and lives in Samford, Queensland. She is an artist with passion and talent and her paintings express this and encompass a rich diversity of subject, from dramatic abstract, to intimate scenes and landscapes to figure studies.

Rowena McNally

Trustee – Mary Aikenhead Ministries



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