



JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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The word “compassion” generally evokes positive feelings. We like to think of ourselves as basically good, understanding, compassionate people. We identify being compassionate with being human. “An incompassionate human being seems as inconceivable as a non-human being.”

Then come the questions: If being human and being compassionate are the same, then why is humanity torn by conflict, war, hatred and oppression? Why do so many suffer from hunger, cold, and lack of shelter? Why do differences of sex, race and religion prevent us from approaching each other and forming community? Why are millions suffering from alienation, separation or loneliness? Why do we hurt, torture and kill each other? Why is our world in such chaos?

Heni Nouwen, highlights a moment of liberation when we come to understand and experience that God is servant in Jesus and exercised his compassion in bringing about the Reign of God, through his powerlessness. “This is the basis of all our joy and hope: Our life of servanthood is lived in union with the risen Christ, in and through who we become children of the compassionate God¹.” Each of us are called to cooperate in bringing the Mission of God to those to whom we engaged in ministry with through a model of servant. Not a leader who bequeaths gifts and freedom from on high, but one who brings hope from embracing the servant, acknowledging that I receive more than I could ever give.

Linda Ferrington rsc
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

¹ Henri Nouwen, *Compassion* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd, 2008). 30.

COMPASSION

MARY AIKENHEAD EDUCATION AUSTRALIA

STEWARDSHIP VISITS 2018

The four Colleges under the Stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, St Vincent's College, Mt St Michael's College, St Columba's College and Catholic Ladies' College recently hosted the Trustees for their Annual Stewardship Visit. These are wonderful occasions offering an opportunity for the College Boards and Principal to engage in reflective dialogue with the Trustees about the many ways they are bringing to life the vision, mission and values of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. This year, acknowledging their commitment to the value of Justice, the Colleges outlined how they worked with their communities to promote justice through advocacy, solidarity, inclusion and equality.

The depth and breadth of these responses, from programs supporting educational opportunity and access, delivering processes and structures which ensured a preferential option for the poor, to engaging in relationships of agency and action with those on the margins is truly inspiring and the accompanying dedication and energy to seek better outcomes for all was very evident at each College.

Perhaps the words below from Pope Francis best sum up this spirit.

Peter Kelly

Ministry Leader, Mary Aikenhead Education Australia

"We are called to live not as one without the others, above or against the others, but one with the others, for the others, and in the others. This means to accept and witness in harmony the beauty of the Gospel!"



MARY AIKENHEAD EDUCATION AUSTRALIA SYMPOSIUM 2018

On Friday 24th and Saturday 25th August members of the education ministry of Mary Aikenhead Ministries; Mary Aikenhead Education Australia, gathered in Sydney to participate in their 2018 Symposium.

The Symposium, held every two years, is an opportunity for Trustees, members of the MAEA Advisory Council, College Leadership Teams and Boards to engage in collaborative discussion and discernment around issues of ministry wide importance. There was much rich engagement as all present spoke honestly and with hope about the challenges and opportunities facing our ministry in education in the current and emerging context of the Australian Catholic Church.



Left to right: Elizabeth Dodds rsc, Annette Cunliffe, Helga Neidhart rsc

Rev Dr Kevin Lenehan led participants through the two-day program around the theme of *Catholic Church, Catholic School, Catholic Culture: Shaping a Catholic education narrative for our times* which sought to answer how we understand and express our inheritance and spirit in the Church of our times and how we tell our particular education narrative in the Australian Catholic Church today.

In responding to these questions participants recognised the importance of understanding who we are being called to serve and what needs to be done individually and together to realise our unique vision in Catholic education. At the conclusion of the Symposium there was great energy and enthusiasm as those in attendance looked forward to returning to their work with a stronger sense of the ideas, beliefs and structures needed to help create a new narrative capable of achieving this vision.

Peter Kelly

Ministry Leader, Mary Aikenhead Education Australia



Final blessing of participants



Left to right: Ms Sandra McPhee, Mr Paul Robertson AO, Dr Tessa Ho, Ms Anne McDonald, Archbishop Denis Hart, Dr Michael Coote.

MISSIONING CEREMONY SVHA DIRECTORS

On the 13 June 2018 the Trustees conducted the missioning ceremony for the following three SVHA directors at the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre in Melbourne:

Ms Anne McDonald
Ms Sandra McPhee
Dr Michael Coote

The Trustees were joined by Archbishop Denis Hart, the then Archbishop of Melbourne, Mr Paul Robertson AO, SVHA Board Chair and Mr Toby Hall, Group CEO SVHA.

Christine Raeside

Executive Officer, Mary Aikenhead Ministries

VICTOR CHANG CARDIAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

STEWARDSHIP VISIT

On the 14 August 2018 the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries visited the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. Professor Bob Graham AO provided an overview of some of the research currently underway at the VCCRI:

- The therapeutic potential of spider venom peptides in cardiovascular disorders;
- Professor Sally Dunwoodie's work on the potential impact of Vitamin B3 to reduce miscarriages and birth defects;
- Dr Kazu Kikuchi's research work with zebrafish and how they are able to repair their cardiac muscle and the potential implications for human heart disease;
- Professor Roland Stocker's research into vulnerable plaque and stable / benign plaque indicates that if they are able to move vulnerable plaque to a stable plaque state then this could potentially prevent clots forming and therefore heart attacks; and
- Collaboration with the Garvan Institute of Medical Research to work jointly on the National Cardio Genomics Program which looks at the genetics linked to heart diseases such as cardiomyopathy.



The Trustees then had the opportunity to tour:

- the nearly completed iPSC facility within the Victor Chang Innovation Centre on Level 7;
- the room where a very powerful MRI machine will be soon arriving to assist with Professor Roland Stocker's imaging of unstable plaques in the heart; and
- a presentation and tour of Professor Sally Dunwoodie's laboratory and her groundbreaking work in relation to Vitamin B and birth defects.

Christine Raeside

Executive Officer, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



SAVE THE DATE TMAM Conference 2019

The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries are pleased to announce that the TMAM conference will be held at the Catholic Leadership Centre in Melbourne on 22-23 July 2019.

The theme of the 2019 conference is 'Preferential Option for the Poor'.

The conference is the primary formation activity conducted by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries for leaders of their health, education, research, aged care and outreach ministries.



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