2023 MERCY EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Earth Justice

OUR MERCY COMMITMENT TO CARE FOR CREATION

October 12–13 | Kingston, Jamaica
"Responding to Earth’s cry is a sacred calling for Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Jamaica and the Caribbean. It is not optional. At stake are the lives of the people we serve—women, children, migrants, people made poor—and the very existence of the beautiful islands we call home."

SISTER MARIA THERESA MUHUHU, RSM

For only the second time in the conference's 41-year history, the Mercy Education Conference will be held outside of the United States in Kingston, Jamaica. This location is integral to our 2023 conference theme: Earth, one of the five Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy.

Speakers will address the climate crisis and its impact on the most marginalized in our world. Topics include water justice and environmental racism. What are the global ramifications of actions and decisions made in highly developed countries such as the United States? How can each of us commit to ecological conversion through our personal environmental practices and within our Mercy schools?

Our Host Schools
- Alpha Infant School
- Alpha Primary School
- Alpha School of Music
- Alpha Vocational Training Centre
- Convent of Mercy Academy "Alpha"
- Jessie Ripoll Primary School
- Mount St. Joseph Catholic High School
- Mount St. Joseph Preparatory School
- St. John Bosco Vocational Training Centre

Website: bit.ly/mercy-education-conference

Earth Justice: Our Mercy Commitment to Care for Creation
Dates: The conference will take place from the morning of Thursday, October 12 – to the afternoon of Friday, October 13.

Registration: Registration is due September 1, 2023. Register here for the 2023 Mercy Education Conference. You must book your hotel stay separately from your conference registration – see details below. Registration fee is $250.

Airport and Transportation: Please plan your travel to Norman Manley International Airport (KIN). In the spirit of true Jamaican hospitality, care and safety, ground transportation will be provided at a special through GO! Jamaica Travel - $10 each way between airport and hotel. We strongly encourage participants to take advantage of this offer.

Passport/Visas: For participants traveling from the United States, please take the earliest opportunity to apply for a passport or renew your current one if needed. Information about U.S. passports is available here. For participants traveling from other countries, please check here to learn what visa requirements relate to you.

Hotel: A block of rooms will be available at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, which is also the location of the conference. The room rate is $171.39/night for a single (includes all fees) and $196.69/night for a double (includes all fees) - other room options are also available. The conference rate is available for October 11-14, 2023. The hotel provides a complimentary breakfast. Reservations must be made by September 1; the conference rate cannot be guaranteed after this date. More hotel information is available here.

2023 Mercy Education Conference Committee
- Kimberly Baxter – Associate Director for Programs and Services, Mercy Education
- Anne Knapke – Head of School, Gwynedd-Mercy Academy Elementary, Spring House, PA
- Jamie Landry – Executive Assistant, Mercy Education
- Kali McMorris – Principal, Convent of Mercy Academy “Alpha,” Kingston, Jamaica
- Patricia Normile – Principal, Mercy Montessori, Cincinnati, OH
- Traci Smith – Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Mercy High School, Farmington Hills, MI
- Nell Stetser – Associate Director for Mercy Online Learning, Mercy Education

Earth Justice: Our Mercy Commitment to Care for Creation
Presenting Our 2023 Keynote Speakers

**Meera Karunananthan** is a lecturer in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, on unceded Algonquin Anishinaabe land. Her research on water privatization builds on over a decade of work with water justice networks and frontline communities around the world. She is the chair of the Blue Planet Project, an organization that facilitates trans-local solidarity by building connections between local water justice struggles through research and popular education. She is also a visual artist and a board member at Peace Brigades International – Canada, an organization that accompanies and supports human rights defenders. As the mother and aunt of three amazing girls of color, she has been actively involved in promoting anti-racism and social justice issues within the public education system in Ontario.

**Sister Angela Reed, RSM, Ph.D.,** is the Head of Mercy International Association: Mercy Global Action Office. Sr. Angela is a graduate of RMIT University’s School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, in Melbourne, Australia where she completed her Ph.D. on Human Trafficking. While living in the Philippines, her research focused on giving voice to Filipino women who had been trafficked for sexual exploitation. Prior to her research, Sr. Angela was a part-time lecturer for the Master of Social Work courses at RMIT University and coordinator at a women’s safe house in Melbourne, Australia, where she encountered many women and children who were experiencing violence and abuse. Over the years she has integrated her professional background in education, social work and theology to adopt an interdisciplinary approach to research, service provision and public advocacy.

**Dr. Theresa Rodriguez-Moodie** is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET) where she leads its environmental advocacy program and works on projects geared towards the protection of Jamaica’s natural resources and public health. She is a Geographer with a BSc and Ph.D. from the University of the West Indies. Her Ph.D. was in the area of coastal geomorphology (the study of coastal processes and how it influences coastlines) and paleoclimatology (the study of past climate). During her career over the last 12 years she has worked on a variety of projects as an Environmental Scientist and Climate Change Vulnerability Specialist, locally and regionally for private sector, government and multilateral agencies.
**Agenda**

Thursday, October 12, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00-8:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complimentary at hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30-8:30 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00 am</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-10:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Address: Sr. Angela Reed, RSM</strong></td>
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<td><em>This keynote will provide the foundation of the commitment of the Sisters of Mercy to care for Earth and detail the important work of Mercy Global Action and the other initiatives promoting environmental justice.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:15 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-11:15 am</td>
<td>Break-out Session #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-11:45 am</td>
<td>Announcements and Door Prizes</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 am -12:45 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-2:00 pm</td>
<td>Fireside Chat</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00-2:45 pm</td>
<td>Table Discussions and Large Group Sharing</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45-3:00 pm</td>
<td>Announcements and Door Prizes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Board Bus for Liturgy and Events at Host Schools</td>
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## Agenda

**Friday, October 13, 2023**

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>7:30-8:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Breakfast</strong>&lt;br&gt;Complimentary at hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00 am</td>
<td>Announcements and Opening Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:45 am</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Address</strong>: Theresa Rodriguez-Moodie, Ph.D.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;This keynote will address the local realities being experienced in Jamaica and other Caribbean island nations due to the impact of climate change.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:15 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-11:15 am</td>
<td><strong>Break-out Session #2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-11:45 am</td>
<td>Announcements and Door Prizes</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 am -12:45 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45-1:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Collaborative Sharing of School Initiatives</strong></td>
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<td>1:45-2:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Address</strong>: Meera Karunananthan&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;This keynote will focus on the impact of climate change on environmental racism and will also provide insights on water justice issues across the globe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45-3:00 pm</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evening</strong></td>
<td><strong>Optional Activities:</strong></td>
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<td>- <a href="#">Devon House</a>, which features tours of the historic mansion, shopping, dining, live entertainment and world-famous Devon House ice cream.</td>
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<td>- <a href="#">Buzo Italian Restaurant</a>, located close to conference hotel.</td>
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<td>- <a href="#">Emancipation Park</a>, located across the street from conference hotel.</td>
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Sister Edia Del Carmen López, RSM, a Sister of Mercy for over 30 years, has spent her last 10 years serving as a missionary in an indigenous area of Panama with the ethnic group Ngabe - Bukle, generating social projects including food security, water initiatives, civic programs and human rights issues. She collaborated with the initiative of Ngabe-Bukle against mining between 2011 and 2017. Currently she is doing on-site services in the indigenous zone for the territorial and organizational strengthening of the members of the Ngabe-Bukle group. She is also involved in an in-country program that fosters alternatives to violence both for youth groups and also for the members of the community.

Marianne Comfort is justice coordinator for Earth, anti-racism and women for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She serves on the steering committee of the Catholic Climate Covenant and the board of the Laudato Si Movement (formerly known as the Global Catholic Climate Movement). She also is a member of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.’s Care for Creation Committee.

Marianne Comfort

Sister Edia Del Carmen López, RSM

Environmental Justice as a Work of Mercy

Participants will be challenged to unpack what it means to be Mercy stewards of creation, while considering Mercy responses to issues related to the degradation of the Earth and the actions they can take.

Colleen Swain is the Leadership Development and Advocacy Associate with Mercy International Association. Since 2016, Colleen has engaged in global policy at the United Nations and numerous Mercy justice advocacy responses in relation to human rights, climate, water and sanitation, gender equality and human trafficking. Colleen currently co-leads a leadership generating project focusing on Mercy women's leadership development and capacity building and the long-term sustainability of the Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship. Colleen graduated from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, where she earned her Master’s Degree in International Relations and Bachelor degrees in Global Studies with a concentration in international development and Spanish.
Fireside Chat: Environmental Justice

In this fireside chat, speakers will share insights and perspectives on projects and initiatives around Earth that are being shepherded in our Mercy School communities.

**Carolina Coceres** has been the co-General Director and co-Legal Representative at Colegio Santa Ethnea, Bella Vista, Argentina, since 2018. She graduated in Counselling (Instituto Holos, Buenos Aires, Argentina) and has a postgraduate degree in Education Management at Universidad Austral, Argentina. She is married and has four daughters. Since 2007, Carolina was part of Colegio Santa Ethnea’s Outreach Pastoral Program team and was in charge of this department’s coordination from 2015 to 2018. In this role, she encouraged pastoral life both in the staff, faculty and family community and pre-kindergarten through secondary school students. She was also in charge of the organization of community activities, retreats and missions, in search of the constant transmission of the Mercy charism.

**Sister Patricia Donlin, RSM,** has been a Sister of Mercy for 37 years. Since 2015 she has served as theology teacher at Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School where she has developed curriculum for the Critical Concerns in the grade 11 Catholic Social Teaching second-semester course. She has also moderated the Environmental Club for 7 years, winning a Mercy grant to put new recycle bins into each classroom and eating space. Prior to her current ministry, Sr. Patti has served as a math teacher, campus minister and minister for new membership in the Sisters of Mercy.

**Maria Mutidjo** is a dedicated educator with 19 years of teaching experience. She brings a global perspective to her work, having taught in Osaka, Japan, and draws inspiration from both Franciscan and Mercy Spirituality, which highlight the importance of experiencing God through creation. Her passion lies in Catholic Education, where she endeavors to guide students in recognizing their belovedness in the eyes of God and to instill in them the imperative to share this love with others. Maria's dedication to her vocation led her to serve as the Dean of School Culture and Communication at the Convent of Mercy Academy “Alpha,” where she actively promoted the school’s core values. Currently, she serves as the principal of St. Richard’s Primary School, continuing her mission to shape young minds and hearts with love, compassion and excellence.
Extend Your Stay in Beautiful Jamaica

You may want to extend your stay in Jamaica to the traditional tourist areas on the North Coast. There is a bus service, Knutsford Express, which provides comfortable intra-island travel from Kingston to Ocho Rios and Montego Bay. There is an international airport in Montego Bay located on the North Coast in the event you want to leave Jamaica from that airport. GO! Jamaica Travel offers the following travel packages.

Mercy Education Conference 2023
Oct 10-15, 2023

Pre/Post Conference Rates

Moon Palace Jamaica (Ocho Rios) - USD $458 per night for 2 adults with 3 nights minimum stay required

RIU Ocho Rios - USD $312 per night for 2 adults with a 3 night minimum stay required

Royal Decameron Club Caribbean (Runaway Bay) - USD $208 per night for 2 adults with a 2 night minimum stay required

Holiday Inn (Montego Bay) - USD $204 per night for 2 adults with a 2 night minimum stay required

Please note: Transportation rates to/from Kingston will depend on the number of persons staying at these hotels Pre/Post conference.

Email: Reservations@gojamaicatravel.net
Phone: 876-920-7051-2
WhatsApp: 876-829-5648, 876-349-7941
Devon House Tour and EITS Cafe

GO! Jamaica Travel will offer three excursions for family members accompanying conference participants as well as participants who wish to extend their time in Kingston.

Mercy Education Conference 2023
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Tour 1

Devon House Tour & EITS Cafe includes admission with guide to Devon House Mansion, 1 scoop of Devon House ice cream, a beef or chicken patty and bottle of coconut water. After Devon House we head north into the hills to New Castle for picture taking. The British Army had established this army outpost as it was cooler for them than being on the flats of Kingston.

We then go to EITS Cafe for lunch. This cafe is located at some 3,500 feet above sea level. Lunch will include red peas soup with pigs tail, and a choice of Roasted Chicken / Shrimp Pasta / braised Oxtail / Roasted Vegetables and black beans in a coconut curry sauce. We then end lunch with a rum cream cake. We need to know in advance which antree you would like.

Time: 9am-3.30pm

Cost: USD150.00 per person (10 person minimum and max of 18 persons permitted on this tour)

(Day of tour will depend on demand)

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Rafting on the Rio Grande

Tour 2

We depart your hotel at 7.30am and drive and hour and forty minuets to St Margarets Bay 'Rafters' Rest' here we will pickup the tickets for your raft and proceed to Berrydale which is the start of our journey.
Rafts on the Rio Grande is how persons used to transport bananas which were farmed along the river valley to an area where the bananas were taken to the ships in Port Antonio. These ships then took the bananas to New York City and London.

1/2 way down the rafting ride which is about 3 hours we stop for lunch at Belinda’s. Here you can indulge in fried chicken, and curried goat and rice and peas and veg which is cooked over an open food fire.
(We need to know in advance which meat you would like as Belinda specifically caters for persons stopping by her eatery on the river bank).

For his tour we suggest confirmable slippers / crocs and other comfortable footwear which can get wet.
You also need sunscreen, a hat, long sleeve tops.
Each raft carries 2 persons.

Time: 7.30am - 4pm
Cost: USD156.00 per person (10 person minimum, 25 person maximum)
(Day of tour will depend on demand)

Email: Reservations@gojamaicatravel.net
Phone: 876-920-7051-2
WhatsApp: 876-829-5648; 876-349-7941
Kingston and Port Royal

GO! Jamaica Travel will offer three excursions for family members accompanying conference participants as well as participants who wish to extend their time in Kingston.

Mercy Education Conference 2023
Oct 10-15, 2023

Tour 3

Kingston and Port Royal
We begin the tour heading downtown to National Heroes Park. This is where all the National Heroes of Jamaica are buried. Seeing the changing of the guards if we are lucky.

We then drive to Port Royal passing by the Holy Trinity Cathedral to visit Fort Charles and its museum which houses artefacts which has been recovered from the sea floor when the great earthquake destroyed most of the city. We visit the Giddy House. Let’s see how you stand here.

We then visit St Peter’s Anglican Church which was destroyed by the earthquake of 1692. The church was rebuilt between 1725-1726.

When we leave Port Royal we drive by Water Lane to view some of the murals which are being done to restore downtown Kingston and make it a creative centre.

Next we pass the National Stadium and National Arena on the way back to your hotel.

Time: 8.30am - 1pm
Cost: USD110.00 (10-30 persons)

(Day of the tour will depend on demand)

Email: Reservations@gojamaicatravel.net
Phone: 876-920-7051-2
WhatsApp: 876-829-5648, 876-349-7941
Mercy Education

About Mercy Education

Mercy Education supports Mercy schools around the world through programming and resources for leaders, educators and students.

We are rooted in the Gospel, through the Catholic faith and the charism of the Sisters of Mercy. Inspired by Catherine McAuley, Mercy Education nurtures highly competent and deeply compassionate leaders ready to serve a vulnerable world. Learn more.

Core Values

Our Core Values are the hallmarks of a Mercy Education. These are the ideals we stand up for and strive to live up to. We hold ourselves to these standards as an institution, as a community and as individuals. Each value is interconnected and necessary as we take Mercy into the world. Learn more.

Connect with Mercy Education

Mercy Education
Educación de la Misericordia
Courageous Action. Selfless Spirit.™
Acción valiente. Espíritu altruista.™