



September 24, 2020

Dear Mercy Family,

What a blessing it is to share this Mercy Day with you who inspire us each day and give such rich and deep meaning to “mercy” throughout the community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas! How could any one of us ever have imagined being in the middle of a devastating pandemic as we celebrate this wonderful day that grounds us in the works of mercy and Catherine’s opening of the doors of Baggot Street? How could any one of us ever have imagined the eruption and recognition of racial inequities that call for our most authentic response on this day of Mercy? Our global family looks to each of us, personally and collectively, today for the expressions of mercy: compassion, hospitality and justice.

We write to you with joy and deep gratitude for how you today are the very Mercy of God in our midst. As associates, companions, co-workers and volunteers, you have answered a call that clearly invites you to do Mercy works for one another and for our world. As our faithful staff and beloved personnel in our retirement centers, you serve us with respect, kindness and deep care. For those of you who work in our administrative centers, you perform day-to-day tasks with joy and effectiveness that make our lives possible and our ministries viable. Whether your role is in finance, communications, technology, justice or other support services, your presence is one of enthusiasm, a can-do attitude and deep respect for one another.

We know that these have been tough days for us as a Community and for many of you with your family responsibilities and other serious concerns. We also see how resilient and focused you remain on doing good and mercy-full work. Please know that we are deeply grateful.

We share with you the following words that we wrote to our sisters today: During this most extraordinary time of global pandemic, we know suffering acutely—quarantine, deaths, seclusion, loneliness. Each of us has been asked anew to reflect

Mercy to ourselves and to one another and to embrace the suffering of our global community. In the midst of this terrible crisis, racial inequities and economic disparities have been exposed more starkly and we are, as disciples of Jesus, called to *make ever wide our table, hospitable our presence, radiant our embrace of dignity of difference, known the shelter of Your most tender love and Mercy.*

Click [here](#) to view a Mercy Day 2020 video.

On this Mercy Day, we affirm and bless your efforts. We pray in deep gratitude for each one of you, and for the collective energy and presence that you embody, which then becomes a blessing for our world.

In mercy and deep gratitude,

*Patricia McDermott, RSM    Patricia C. Glynn, RSM    Judith Frikker, RSM*  
*Diane O'Connor, RSM    Anne Marie Miller, RSM*

Institute Leadership Team