In Catherine's Boots

A Mercy Pilgrimage to Ireland | August 16-20, 2027



Mercy Education
Educación de la Misericordia

FÁILTE! WELCOME



An Invitation to Journey Together in Mercy

Deepening mission and inspiring those who carry Catherine's legacy forward!

Mercy Education warmly invites you to apply for a fully funded pilgrimage to Ireland, "In Catherine's Boots." Approximately 20 participants from Mercy Education member schools will embark on a transformative pilgrimage to Dublin, Ireland — home of the first House of Mercy. In the spirit of Catherine McAuley, pilgrims will experience days of prayer, reflection, and community, immersing themselves in the story and spirituality that continue to animate Mercy Education today. This sacred journey offers space for renewal and a deepened sense of purpose in carrying the mission of Mercy forward.

Artwork at left: "Living Mercy: Catherine's Foundation, Our Story" by artist Sue Keavney. Gifted to McAuley College, Beaudesert, by the Foundation Principal, Mrs. Deidre Young. Used with permission.

How to Apply

Applications are due December 31, 2026. A limit of three applications per school will be accepted; you are asked to seek the support of your head of school before applying.

APPLY HERE

Some application questions call for reflection and thoughtful responses. We encourage you to draft your answers separately and submit your application once your responses are finalized. Previous applicants are welcome to apply again.

You will be asked to upload a letter of recommendation from an administrator or colleague at your school. This letter should share how you embody the *Profile of a Mercy Pilgrim* (see page 4 for details).

Selected participants will be notified in March.

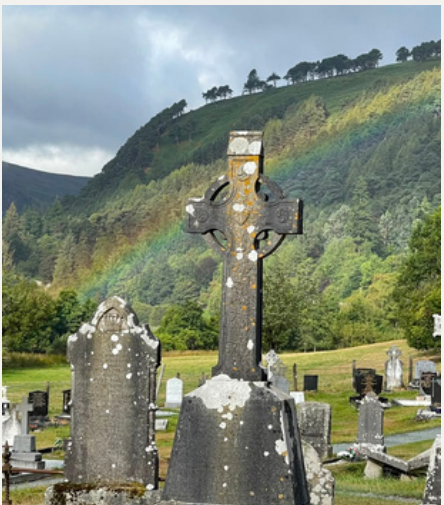
For Faculty and Staff: Your head of school's support is required to complete your application.

PROGRAM DETAILS

"Amidst all this tripping about: our hearts can always be in the same place, centered in God, for whom alone we go forward or stay back."
Catherine McAuley







Mercy Education is thrilled to support participants on this immersive pilgrimage to Ireland. Expenses covered include:

- Travel from your local airport to Dublin Airport
- 6 nights at the Mespil Hotel, just a short walk from Mercy International Centre
- Meals, travel, and fees for all scheduled pilgrimage activities

Dates: August 15-21, 2027

- Pre- and post-trip meetings will also be scheduled.

Participants are welcome to arrange additional travel before or after the pilgrimage at their own expense.

Air Travel: Schools are responsible for purchasing airline tickets, and Mercy Education will reimburse the cost after the pilgrimage. Please note that travel expenses cannot be reimbursed if the participant is unable to attend.

Passports: Applicants must hold a valid passport and be able to travel internationally in August 2027. Travelers using a U.S. passport should ensure it is valid for at least six months beyond their planned return date. Passport validity requirements vary by country. **Please review the travel and passport regulations that apply to the country that issued your passport before making travel arrangements.**

Visas: Travelers who require a visa to enter Ireland must obtain it by July 30, 2027. Participants who have not secured the required visa by that date will need to withdraw from the program.

Interpretation: Spanish interpretation will be available.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Participant Expectations

This pilgrimage is an opportunity to grow personally and professionally. Participants are expected to:

- Engage fully in all programming and events, including pre- and post-trip meetings.
- Participants should be prepared to walk 3-5 miles daily and be able to navigate stairs and uneven terrain.
- Reflect on and incorporate pilgrimage learnings into lesson plans and/or co-curricular activities in ways that advance the mission of Mercy within your school community.
- Share their journey and insights with their school community through a presentation to faculty and staff.

School Responsibilities

To support participants, schools are asked to:

- Provide teacher coverage, if needed, while the participant is on pilgrimage.
- Allow time at a faculty/staff meeting for the participant to share their experiences and insights from the journey.

Questions? Please contact
Jamie Landry, Mercy Education Executive Assistant
jlandry@sistersofmercy.org



PROFILE OF A MERCY PILGRIM

A **Mercy Pilgrim** is one who feels a call to deepen their connection to Catherine McAuley's life and story and to share the fruits of that experience within our Mercy schools. Grounded in the tradition of Mercy education and committed to exploring the Mercy mission and charism, each pilgrim approaches this journey with an open heart, a reflective spirit, and a readiness to learn and grow.

Our pilgrims come from across Mercy Education—heads of school, administrators, teachers, and staff—each actively engaged in Mercy life and ministry. Pilgrims should have at least four years of service in a Mercy Education member school and be committed to continuing their service in the 2027-2028 academic year.

Grounded in mission, a Mercy Pilgrim embodies the Mercy Education Core Values and the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, drawing inspiration from them both personally and professionally. They demonstrate a genuine affinity for the mission of Mercy and actively seek to integrate it into their life and work. They have participated in spiritual formation experiences—such as retreats, service projects, or mission-based initiatives within their school. Leading by example, they serve as mentors and role models, nurturing the Mercy spirit among students and colleagues.

After the pilgrimage, Mercy Pilgrims return with renewed energy for the Mercy mission and a commitment to share their experience. They thoughtfully integrate what they have learned into classroom and co-curricular life, finding creative ways to deepen the Mercy charism within their school community. Each pilgrim also shares their insights with colleagues, fostering reflection and growth among faculty and staff.

At heart, a Mercy Pilgrim is curious and compassionate, eager to learn from the history, culture, and people who shaped Catherine's world. They approach the pilgrimage with humility and gratitude, recognizing it as both a gift and a responsibility to carry the Mercy story forward.

This experience welcomes those already immersed in Mercy life as well as those seeking to grow more deeply in it. All pilgrims share a desire to strengthen Mercy identity within their communities and ensure that Catherine's legacy continues to shine.

Itinerary Highlights



The itinerary outlined below is subject to change as details are finalized.

Sunday, August 15
Recommended Travel Day to Dublin, Ireland

Monday, August 16
Late afternoon: Program begins at Mercy International Centre with Welcoming and Prayer

Tuesday, August 17
Tour of Mercy International Centre and Baggot Street
Book of Kells, Trinity College Dublin
Dinner at Historic Dublin Pub

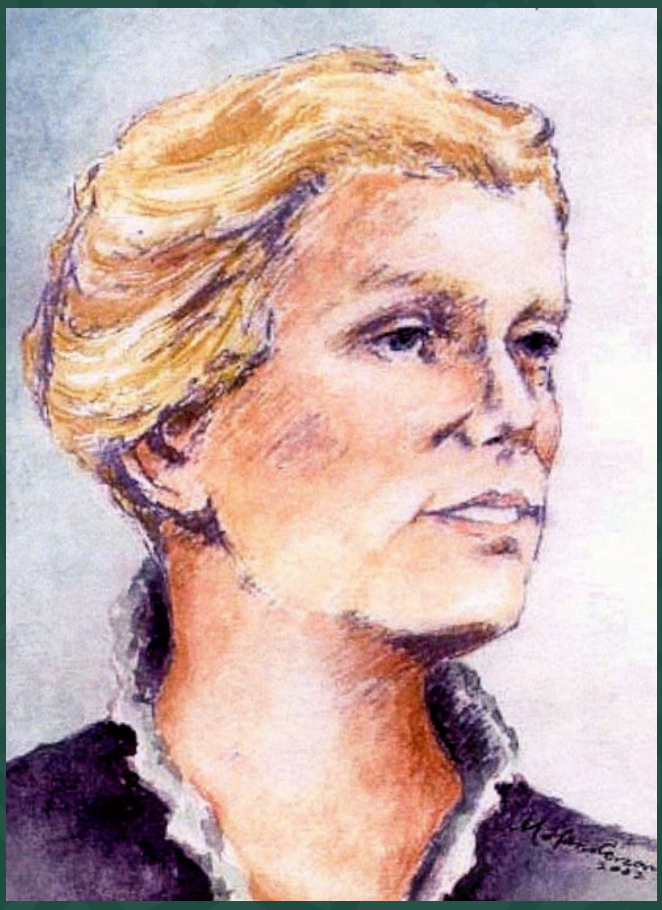
Wednesday, August 18
Tour of Coolock House and Mercy College Coolock

Thursday, August 19
Walking Tour of Catherine's Dublin
Merry Ploughboys Irish Pub

Friday, August 20
Glendalough Monastic Site
Missioning Ceremony

Saturday, August 21
Departures

Participants should be prepared to walk 3-5 miles daily and be able to navigate stairs and uneven terrain. If you have any concerns, please contact jlandry@sistersofmercy.org for more information.



Catherine McAuley

Founder of the Sisters of Mercy

Mercy Education System of the Americas unites and supports Catholic schools embracing the charism of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Rooted in the Gospel and inspired by Catherine McAuley, Mercy Education nurtures educational communities to develop highly competent, deeply compassionate leaders ready to serve a vulnerable world.

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