

# Partners in Ministry

# LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



July 29-30, 2019 | St. Xavier University | Chicago, Illinois

# 2019 Partners in Ministry Leadership Academy

*Leadership* is a central tenet of all Mercy ministries. The Partners in Ministry Leadership Academy is an opportunity to collectively witness to its importance in furthering Catherine McAuley's mission.

**WHO ATTENDS?** Those newly appointed to a leadership position in the school (faculty/staff/administration/board); those relatively new to a Mercy school; those who seek renewal or would like to explore a greater exercise of leadership; those who wish to know more about the charism, core values and tradition of Mercy that they might share more fully in the mission of Mercy.

Each participant shares in the learning and dialogue. Individually and communally, there is renewed faithfulness to the mission of Mercy. Participants return to their ministries with an increased capacity to embrace and enhance the Mercy Charism in their school communities. Participants are encouraged to reflect on their individual gifts, to dialogue with others and to return to their ministry committed to exercising leadership for mission.

**WHERE?** Saint Xavier University, Chicago, Illinois. All room accommodations (including towels and bedding) and meals will be provided at the university. We are grateful to Saint Xavier for providing us with complimentary self-parking and in-room internet access. *Saint Xavier University is a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy.*

**WHEN?** Monday, July 29, 2019 at 11:30 am - Tuesday, July 30, 2019, ending at 12 noon. *Following the Leadership Academy, members of the New Leader Cohort will gather from 1-3 pm.*

**EXPENSES:** The Mercy Education System of the Americas pays for the program, meals during the program (lunch and dinner on July 29, breakfast and lunch on July 30) and one night of accommodations on Monday, July 29. If you need to book an additional night at the university on either end of the Leadership Academy, the MESA rate is \$59.00/night. Ministries pay for travel (airfare, ground transportation, etc.). Prior to the event, MESA will collect and share flight information from participants to help with arranging carpools from the airport to the university.

**DRESS:** Dress for the leadership academy is summer casual.

**GIFT EXCHANGE:** Please bring a gift from your ministry to exchange (i.e. mug, a t-shirt, sweatshirt, other swag). Each person who brings a gift will take one home.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

[Please complete registration by June 15](#)

**[PARTNERS IN MINISTRY WEBSITE](#)**



## Program Schedule

Monday, July 29

10:30-11:30 am Arrival and Registration

11:30 am Lunch

12:30 pm Opening Prayer and Introductions

1:00 pm ***Walking in the Footsteps of Catherine: Virtual Tour of Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland***

Presenters: Sisters Mary Reynolds and Anna Nicholls, RSM

This virtual tour will cover the history of the founding of the Sisters of Mercy, the House of Mercy and the development of the Mercy Charism.

3:00 pm Break

3:15 pm ***Wellness Begins with WE! Leadership Rooted in Wellness Practices Can Transform a School Culture & Community***

Presenter: Emily Cady

Our anxious world needs non-anxious leaders. As school leadership has become increasingly demanding, careful attention to personal and communal wellness is critical. This workshop will introduce a variety of research-based practices for self-reflection. Participants will become equipped to enhance their learning communities and affect positive change.

4:45 pm ***Leadership in the Service of Mission - The Personal Call***

Presenters: Margaret Cronin and Peter Diaz

These speakers will impart their personal journey to and with Mercy education and how their leadership as laypeople is furthering the Mercy mission.

5:30 pm Table Discussion

6 pm Dinner

7:00 ***Leadership in Mercy - Communal Call and Mission***

Presenter: Carolina Coceres

Carolina will share her personal journey in becoming a Mercy administrator, emphasizing the laity's role in continuing Catherine's mission.

8:00 Table Discussion and Large Group Sharing

8:30 Evening Prayer





## Program Schedule

*Tuesday, July 30*

8 am	Breakfast
8:45 am	Welcome and Prayer
9 am	<p><b><i>“What Then Must We Do?” (Luke 3:10) Blessings and Burdens of Leadership Today: Responding to the Calls of Our Time</i></b></p> <p>Presenter: Sister Rayleen Giannotti, RSM</p> <p>In Luke 3, when told by John the Baptist to prepare the way, the crowds ask, “What then must we do?” We have been asking that question ever since as in every era we wonder and worry how best to prepare the way of Jesus. As another era in Mercy education unfolds, what must we do as Catholic Mercy educators who carry the burden and blessing of the call to leadership in the time that is ours?</p>
10 am	<p><b><i>We Are Mercy Education</i></b></p> <p>Presenters: Staff of the Mercy Education System of the Americas (MESA)</p> <p>The MESA staff will provide an overview of their work and share ways for participants to connect with the MESA office, with their education cohorts and through upcoming events.</p>
10:45 am	Break
11 am	Table Discussion and Large Group Sharing
11:45 am	Closing Prayer
12 pm	Lunch
1-3 pm	Meeting of New Leader Cohort



# Meet Our Presenters



**Emily Cady** serves as the Director of Wellness at Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women in Rochester, New York. Working with the counseling staff and administration, Emily is spearheading new wellness initiatives that include preventative and enhanced social emotional programming, community-wide wellness efforts and a new wellness center. She has a passion for empowering and educating young women to live healthy and joyful lives, and has over 16 years of experience in educational settings in states including Ohio, Illinois, New Jersey and New York. Emily holds a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University and a M.A from Rider University. She is also a life and career coach and a nationally certified counselor. When Emily is not at Mercy, she enjoys running, theatre, and dance parties in the kitchen

with her three children and husband.



**Carolina Coceres** has been the co-General Director and co-Legal Representative at Colegio Santa Ethnea, Bella Vista, Argentina, since 2018. She holds a degree in Literary Correction (Universidad de Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina) and in Counselling (Instituto Holos, Buenos Aires, Argentina). She is currently taking graduate studies in Education Management at Universidad Austral, Argentina. She is married and has four daughters. For 10 years, together with her husband, Carolina worked in pastoral care of marriage within the Movimiento de Vida en Gracia (Life in Grace Movement), which is made up of lay people and where she trained in pastoral and youth support. 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.



**Margaret M. (Peggy) Cronin** is a product of a Mercy education. She currently serves as President of Mount Mercy Academy, located in Buffalo, New York. She started her career in health care where she served as Vice President of Mercy Hospital of Buffalo and Hospice Buffalo. After moving to Los Angeles, she worked as an Executive Leadership Consultant serving clients such as The University of Southern California, UCLA, Stanford University and the University of Maryland Health System. She worked for many years as the Director of Education and Organizational Development at The California Institute of Technology. She received her undergraduate education at the University at Buffalo and her graduate degree from the University of Notre Dame. She received the prestigious Educational Leadership Certification from Harvard University. She currently serves as the President of Western New York University of Notre Dame Alumni Board.





**Peter Diaz** has been teaching at Mercy High School in Burlingame, California, for 18 years. He has his Masters in Theological Studies degree from the Franciscan School of Theology. Peter has taught all four levels of religious studies at Mercy B, which covers the gamut of Catholic Church foundations, sacred scriptures, morality, world religions and a service class. These past six years he has also been the service coordinator of Mercy B, which entails running all service events and trips and keeping track of service hours. For the past two years Peter has co-chaired the Mission Integration responsibilities, which entails orienting new faculty/staff and new parents to the mission and philosophy of the Sisters of Mercy and the Catholic identity. In his down time, Peter enjoys gardening.



**Rayleen A. Giannotti, RSM**, is currently serving as Director of Mission Integration at MacNeal Hospital of Loyola Medicine – Trinity Health in Berwyn, Illinois. Prior to joining Loyola Medicine, she served as Vice President of Mission Integration at Mercy LIFE of Mercy Health System in Pennsylvania. Born in Fall River, Massachusetts, Rayleen holds a B.A. in Politics from Salve Regina University and an M.Ed. from Boston College. She completed some additional study of administration in education at Creighton University while completing an administrative internship in Omaha, Nebraska. Prior to ministering in healthcare administration, Rayleen primarily served in the ministries of education and spiritual accompaniment. She continues to engage in the ministry of spiritual accompaniment and retreat ministry as time permits. Presently, she is pursuing a doctorate in bioethics at Loyola University.



**Anna Nicholls, RSM**, currently serves as the Leader for Heritage and Spirituality at Mercy International Association. She is a member of Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand. She describes her current role as an absolute privilege, particularly as she gets to talk about Catherine McAuley and Mercy all day, every day! Over 20 years ago, Anna began teaching physics, science and religious education to high-school students. Over time she moved more into the senior leadership and administrative area of education. Anna's most rewarding teaching experience was her time as a Deputy Principal in a rural school in Samoa, where teaching mathematics, geography, literacy, art, computer studies and materials technology were added to her repertoire! After Samoa, Anna taught in Christchurch, New Zealand. This was her most challenging teaching experience as the school she was working in, and the homes of over 50 percent of the school families, were destroyed in the devastating earthquake of 2011.



**Mary Reynolds, RSM**, is the CEO of Mercy International Association, and in this capacity she leads, integrates, develops and manages Mercy International Association in accordance with the MIA Vision. Mary worked for many years in the forefront of education ministry. She taught 12 to 18-year-old students in a variety of schools and served for a number of these in the role of principal. She also held roles on boards of governors and trustee boards. She was joint director of the Education Desk of the Conference of Religious of Ireland and a founding member of the Catholic Schools Partnership (CSP), an association established by the Irish Bishops' Conference and the Conference of Religious of Ireland to foster coherence in Catholic Education at a national level. Mary has lived mainly in Ireland but has had the opportunity to visit Mercy ministries in several parts of the world.

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[MESA Flash - our biweekly e-newsletter](#)



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