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Dear Friends of Mercy,

As educators in Mercy schools, we have an urgent and challenging yet wonderfully exciting opportunity before us today. We are called to prepare young people not only for further academic and career success but also to shape their commitment to lives of faith and spirituality. We teach them to think critically and work collaboratively as we guide them in becoming people of integrity and compassion. We cultivate a drive for excellence and personal achievement while teaching students to be servant leaders committed to social justice. Perhaps more than ever, our modern age needs young people whose education is enlivened by the Mercy charism.

Fortunately for us, the Sisters of Mercy have outlined areas of critical concern in the world today that our students need to be able to address in constructive ways: earth, nonviolence, anti-racism, women, and immigration. As Mercy educators, we have a unique opportunity to teach our usual subject area curricula in ways that also educate students about these concerns and equip them to work toward solutions.

The curriculum guide for teaching the critical concerns now available provides a valuable tool for incorporating the social justice priorities of the Sisters of Mercy into other content, especially in English and social studies. This guide is a living document that will only get better over time as educators suggest additions and revisions. Consider it a menu of possible curricular connections for connecting the concerns to other subject area content. The opportunities for creatively incorporating elements from this guide into various lesson plans across disciplines are truly limitless.

We encourage your exploration of and conversation about this guide, and we are excited to know that it is only the beginning of new ways to bring the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy to life in our schools.

In Mercy,