



THROUGH THE LENS OF MERCY:



2022 Mercy  
Education  
Conference

# AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT RACISM

NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREEDOM CENTER  
CINCINNATI, OHIO | OCTOBER 17-18, 2022



# 2022 Mercy Education Conference Quick Links

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# THROUGH THE LENS OF MERCY: AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT RACISM



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE MERCY EDUCATION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

"Engaging in antiracist work is not about perfection but rather a constant quest for grace to see each other as Christ sees us."

– Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ, *The Spiritual Work of Racial Justice*

Racism, one of the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy, calls us to work to become an anti-racist community – committed to eliminating personal and institutional racism and dismantling oppressive structures, policies and processes.

The 2022 Mercy Education Conference has the power to transform us as individuals as we take in the exhibits, presentations and panel discussion; participate in formal implicit bias training; engage in courageous conversations with colleagues from around the world; and prayerfully reflect on how we can live out the Church's teaching that: "We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be" (*Catholic Social Teaching*).

Furthermore, the conference has the power to shape the future. At our Mercy Education member schools, students are preparing to take their places as leaders in our world. How we as Mercy educators respond to racism and how we work to heal wounds of injustice will impact our students' perspectives, inspire their actions and create ripples of change in a world crying out for mercy.

Transformation will come only through careful and intentional effort. This year's event, over two years in the making, will equip us as modern abolitionists and challenge us to work for change. What might it spark within your classroom, your school, your community?

## Conference Dates

Conference dates are Monday, October 17 and Tuesday, October 18, 2022. A gathering for school administrators and the Mercy Education Board of Directors only will take place on Sunday, October 16.

## Conference Registration Costs

- \$225.00 per person BY Thursday, September 15, 2022.
- \$250.00 per person AFTER Thursday, September 15, 2022.
- Checks can be made payable to Mercy Education System of the Americas. Mail to: 8403 Colesville Road Suite 400; Silver Spring, MD 20910

## Location: Cincinnati, Ohio

The conference will take place at the [National Underground Railroad Freedom Center](#), 50 East Freedom Way, Cincinnati.

Conference participants are responsible to make their own rooming reservations. A special rate has been reserved at the following hotels:

- AC Hotel Cincinnati at The Banks, 135 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Phone: 513-744-9900
- The Phelps, A Residence Inn by Marriott, 506 East 4th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Phone: 513-651-1234
- [Book your group rate here \(group name: Sisters of Mercy Education\)](#)

Hotel Room Rates: \$160.00 per night for Double-Queen/Queen.

- Hotels' room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes (currently 18.3%) in effect at the time of check-in.
- Check-In and Check-Out times are subject to change (currently 4:00 PM arrival and 11:00 AM departure).
- Nightly rate includes: Complimentary Wi-Fi, 24-hour fitness facility.
- The Phelps, A Residence Inn by Marriott offers a complimentary breakfast daily included in the daily rate.
- Valet parking only. Rates subject to change and are based on the prevailing rate at time of arrival. Valet charged per night with unlimited in/out privileges. There is no self-parking available at the hotels.

## Airport

Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG), 3087 Terminal Dr, Hebron, KY 41048. Ride share estimates from airport: \$16-\$32

## Evening Activities

- Sunday, October 16: Cocktail reception and tours of Mercy Montessori, 6:00-7:30 pm. BLINK Festival in downtown Cincinnati at your leisure after dark.
- Monday, October 17: Cocktail reception, tours and entertainment at Mercy McAuley.

## Thank you to the members of the 2022 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
- Maria Mutidjo - Dean of School Culture and Communication, 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

## And special thanks to our host schools:

Mercy McAuley High School and Mercy Montessori



# PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Mercy school administrators and the Mercy Education Board of Directors will gather at 12 noon at Moerlein Lager House (115 Joe Nuxhall Way, Cincinnati), located a short walk from the AC Hotel by Marriott.

**12.00 - 1.00 PM**

**1.00 - 5.00 PM**

**Lunch**

**Gathering of Administrators  
and Mercy Education Board**

All arriving on Sunday are invited to attend a welcoming event at Mercy Montessori. Transportation will be provided from both conference hotels, the AC Hotel by Marriott and The Phelps, a Residence Inn by Marriott.

**5.45 PM**

**6.00 - 7.30 PM**

**Board Bus for Mercy Montessori**

**Cocktail Reception and School  
Tour**



# SCHEDULE MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

7.30 - 8.30 AM

8.30 - 9.00 AM

9.00 - 10.00 AM

10.00 - 10.15 AM

10.15 AM - 12.15 PM

12.15 - 1.15 PM

1.30 PM - 3.30 PM

3.45 - 4.00 PM

4.15 PM

4.30 - 6.30 PM

**Breakfast and Registration**

**Opening Remarks and Prayer**

**Journey to Becoming an  
Anti-Racist Institute**

Sister Alicia Zapata, RSM, Keynote  
Speaker

**Break**

**Implicit Bias Training for  
EQUALITY group**

**Museum Tour for JUSTICE group**

**Lunch**

**Implicit Bias Training for  
JUSTICE group**

**Museum Tour for EQUALITY  
group**

**Announcements and Door Prizes**

**Board Bus for Mercy McAuley  
High School**

**Cocktail Reception, School Tour  
and Entertainment**



# SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

**7.30 – 8.30 AM**

**8.30 – 9.00 AM**

**9.00 – 10.00 AM**

**10.00 – 10.15 AM**

**10.15 – 11.15 AM**

**11.15 – 11.30 AM**

**11.30 AM – 12.30 PM**

**12.30 – 1.30 PM**

**1.30 – 1.45 PM**

**1.45 – 2.45 PM**

**2.45 – 3.00 PM**

**Breakfast**

**Announcements and Prayer**

**Called By Name: To Act Justly and Love Mercy**

Rev. Deacon Royce Winters, Keynote Speaker

**Break**

**Panel Discussion**

Fr. Christopher Calderón, S.J., Traci Smith, M.Ed, Krista Taylor

**Announcements and Door Prizes**

**Lunch**

**Table Group Discussion and Large Group Sharing**

**Break**

**Rethinking Racism Through the Lens of the Gospel**

Gloria Purvis, Keynote Speaker

**Closing Remarks and Door Prizes**





# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Gloria Purvis** is an author, commentator and the host and executive producer of The Gloria Purvis Podcast. Through her media presence, she has been a strong Catholic voice for life issues, religious liberty, and racial justice. She has appeared in numerous media outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *PBS Newshour*, *NPR*, *Newsweek*, and *Catholic Answers Live* and hosted *Morning Glory*, an international radio show. She recently debuted a video series entitled [Racism, Human Dignity and The Catholic Church](#) through the Word on Fire Institute. She is the Inaugural Pastoral Fellow at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at Notre Dame University and recently received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from the University of Portland in Oregon.



**Rev. Deacon Royce Winters** has been the Director of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Office - African American Pastoral Ministries since 2005. Deacon Winters has also been serving as Pastoral Administrator for the Church of the Resurrection [Bond Hill] since 2010. In 2015, he was sworn in as chaplain for the Cincinnati Fire Department. Prior to his Archdiocesan assignment, Deacon Royce was employed by the Cincinnati Police Department for over 26 years in various law enforcement assignments. He has served as a forensic behavioral specialist for Adult and Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Programs in Ohio and Kentucky, and for the U.C. Health Department of Forensic Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience. Rev. Mr. Royce Winters has been married to Rita Winters for 47 years. They have three children and two grandchildren.



**Alicia Zapata, RSM**, has been a Sister of Mercy for 48 years. In her early years in community she ministered in Panama, Central America and the inner city of Brooklyn, New York. She also spent time in Argentina, South America. Sister Alicia has served as an interpreter from Spanish to English and vice versa for the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy while serving the farmworker community in Central Florida where she ministered for 32 years. The ministry with the farmworkers called her to become well versed in immigration law, and she was Bureau of Immigration Appeals accredited. Sister Alicia has also served in leadership roles for the Sisters of Mercy and currently serves as a Sister Life Minister, living in Brooklyn, New York.

# PANELISTS



**Christopher Calderón, S.J.** (MA, MDiv, EdM) serves as the Dean of Students at Cristo Rey High School in Sacramento, California. He has served in 9 secondary education institutions over the past 20 years as spiritual director, teacher, campus minister, trustee and in other administrator roles. In each of these roles, DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) work, hand-in-hand with Ignatian Spirituality, has informed his way of proceeding, affirming the Catholic Social Teaching tenet: where you stand determines what you see, and how you stand determines how you build and experience community and so encounter Christ.



**Traci Smith, M.Ed.**, has over 18 years of experience as a secondary educator. She earned her Master's in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Urban Education and Policy. Traci recently finished a graduate certificate program at Northwestern University in Leading Equity and Inclusion in Organizations. She is currently the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, Michigan. In 2021, Traci chaired and planned a regional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference for Metro Detroit teachers. Throughout her career, Traci has worked with programs to mentor youth, international cultural exchanges, and post-secondary readiness. Traci has been married to her husband Keith for over 14 years, and they share a 10-year-old daughter Savannah and are finalizing the adoption of their 4-year-old son, Tyler.



**Krista Taylor** is the assistant principal at Mercy Montessori Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has led the DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging) committee at Mercy since its inception in 2021. This work has included staff training, staff and parent discussion groups, the hiring of a fractional Director of Diversity, and the drafting of a DEIB strategic plan. Krista worked previously as an Intervention Specialist, Montessori Coordinator, and Team Leader at Gamble Montessori High School in the Cincinnati Public Schools. During her time at Gamble, she coordinated monthly team-based dialogues around issues of equity in education, conducted building-wide equity-based data analysis, and co-facilitated a series of Conversations on Race and Equity that involved staff, students, parents, and community members, with a focus on centering student voices.

# EXPLORE CINCINNATI

## National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

From the Freedom Center website:

“The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is a museum of conscience, an education center, a convener of dialogue, and a beacon of light for inclusive freedom around the globe. Our physical location in downtown Cincinnati is just a few steps from the banks of the Ohio



River, the great natural barrier that separated the slave states of the South from the free states of the North. Since opening in 2004, we have filled a substantial void in our nation’s cultural heritage. Rooted in the stories of the Underground Railroad, we illuminate the true meaning of inclusive freedom by presenting permanent and special exhibits that inspire, public programming that provoke dialogue and action, and educational resources that equip modern abolitionists.”



## BLINK Festival

This four-night, 30 city block, outdoor art experience inspires innovation and creativity through street art, projection mapping and light-based installations. The art event is intended as a catalyst for positive change and lasting impact as we look toward a future built on opportunity and hope.

## Attractions and Dining

The Connector: an electric-powered streetcar that operates along a 3.6-mile loop. Free to ride.

Findlay Market: Ohio's oldest public market and a Cincinnati institution!

Historic Churches

Riverboat Tours

Recommended Restaurants:

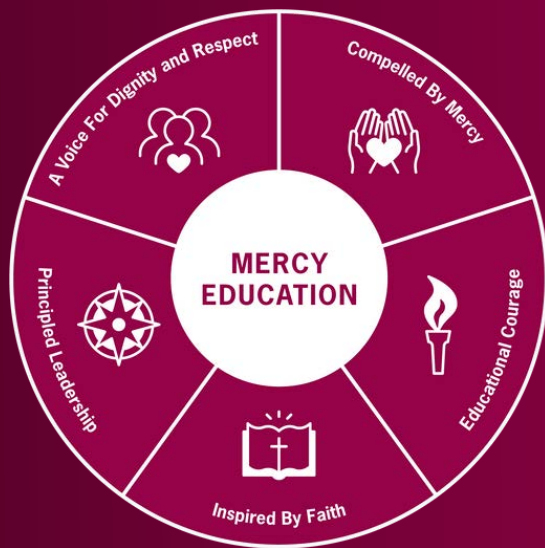
- Taste of Belgium
- Moerlein's Lager House
- E+O Kitchen (Asian Fusion)
- Sotto and Pepp and Dolores (Italian)
- Jefferson Social (Mexican)
- Taft's Brewing Co.
- Eli's BBQ
- Ruby's Chocolate

# 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.](#)



Mercy  
Education  
Educación de  
la Misericordia

Courageous Action. Selfless Spirit.™  
Acción valiente. Espíritu altruista.™

## Connect with Mercy Education

