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A NEW MERCY MOMENT



A New Mercy Moment

This is a new moment with new opportunities for us and for all who work and pray with us! The Sisters of Mercy from California to Michigan soon will form one West Midwest Community.

Our Journey

Throughout our 175 year history, the Sisters of Mercy have been dedicated to our mission of service to the poor, the uneducated, the sick and those in need of compassion, especially women and children. With the caring support of people like you, we have continued to share mercy, bringing light and life where there was little or none.

We have modified and changed our structure many times over the last 175 years, always adapting to current needs and to changes in our numbers. In 1991, 25 regional Mercy communities came together to form the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. As the Institute's founding document stated, we became one to "strengthen and enable one another in mission."

A New Moment

With this same revitalizing goal in mind, our 25 regional communities of the Institute are coming together to form six communities. The West Midwest Community will include over 900 Sisters of Mercy and more than 500 Mercy Associates and Companions in Mercy from the regional communities of:

Auburn, California

Burlingame, California

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Chicago, Illinois

Detroit, Michigan

Omaha, Nebraska



Sister Mary Peter McCusker (Burlingame), parish nurse, cradles a young child at Most Holy Trinity Church.



Sister Anne Sekul (Auburn), minister of art and spirituality, integrates prayer in her artwork.



Sister Rebecca Fidler (Cedar Rapids), offers medical/dental care for the working poor at a West Virginia Clinic.

Moving Forward with the Sisters of Mercy

Why are we changing?

One of the clear purposes of Gospel-based religious life is to focus on those in need. We will meet their needs more effectively by combining our resources and creating a streamlined, efficient governing structure. Right now we have six structures; we only need one. Coming together as the West Midwest Community will allow us to be responsible stewards of our ministries, resources, talents and energy.

How will we change?

Currently, we are exploring all aspects of how we organize ourselves from our office locations to our finances to our system of governance.

Why now?

Change is not new for us. Since our founding, we have modified our structure many times, continually adapting to current needs and to changes in our numbers. Through it all, our mission has continued.

When will this happen?

The West Midwest Community will officially begin on July 1, 2008. We are gradually adopting new procedures as decisions are finalized.

How will this impact you?

You and your support are crucial to the work that we do. The sisters you know and the ministries you care about will continue to evolve in response to need and opportunity as they have in the past. As you can see from the examples in the photos, all of the Mercys are dedicated to vitally important ministries. We ask for your continued support in making the mission of Mercy a reality.



Sisters Alice Marie Feehan and Betty Burns (Chicago) provide music therapy through a senior sing-a-long.



Sister M. Paulita Walters (Detroit) works with women and children at the Readiness Center to break the cycle of poverty.



Sister Maryanne Stevens (Omaha), president of the College of Saint Mary, exchanges ideas with students.