

Boards of Trustees -- Reflection & Dialogue

ABC / Year C segment 3

January 3, 2023

	Year A	Year B	Year C
1. Autumn	Mission, Covenant and Characteristics	Building on Mission, Covenant and Characteristics	Building on Mission, Covenant and Characteristics
2.	C / U chooses Theme	C / U chooses Theme	C / U chooses Theme
3. Spring	Mercy Leadership Service in Higher Education & Critical Decision Making as Mercy Board Members	Mercy and Catholic Intellectual Tradition/Catholic Social Teaching/ Critical Concerns	Mercy and Catholic Intellectual Tradition/Catholic Social Teaching/ Critical Concerns
4.	C / U chooses Theme	C / U chooses Theme	C / U chooses Theme

Time: Approximately 15 minutes. Video is about 8 minutes.

First, let us recall that we decided to focus the prayer/reflection time at the beginning of the board meetings on a cycle of topics in order to deliver a program whereby board members across the network are sharing in a common learning experience.

- In light of the fact that some boards meet three times a year and others meet four times, CMHE will highlight and develop materials for two of the yearly board meetings that each college and university may adjust and shape to its particular setting.

- For the other meetings, each c/u and their Mission Officer develops Mission related process and reflection materials.

Process:

1. Material is designed for the beginning of the board meeting where prayer/reflection customarily begin the meeting and its agenda.
2. PAUSE the process at the Question / Dialogue.
3. At the close of your meeting you may wish to ask:
 - How well did we integrate our values into our deliberations and decisions?

VIDEO link = <https://youtu.be/OgKT1NZm0I0>

A copy of the text for this video is below.

Text of the video:

Slide 1

Mercy and a Commitment to Learning

Slide 2

Together, we go forward in our Mission of higher education in the spirit of Mercy as part of the Catholic tradition. We look to the heritage, spirituality, and work of the Sisters of Mercy, as the sponsor of our institutions, both for dialogue and inspiration.

In the spirit of Catherine McAuley, they, in turn, seek to support and empower the wider circle of Mercy in the needed works of Mercy in the world today.

Slide 3

This year the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas will be convening their governing meeting called a Chapter, which happens every six years. Delegates to the Chapter will be meeting during the days of April 12th to the 22nd in St. Louis. They will examine where Mercy has been in the last six years, take stock of the present moment, elect a new leadership team, and set direction for the path ahead in terms of priorities and attention to the spiritual life of Mercy as contemplation and action, or contemplation in action.

Aware of Mercy higher education's part in the broader circle of Mercy, we support them in their process and join the Sisters of Mercy mindfully during the coming days in April.

Slide 4

As a broad community of Mercy, we are not alone in our work of higher education. Certainly, we stand with streams of laborers throughout history and heritage, with people committed to the vital need and gift of education and research, and to the very wonder of learning, which is elemental to the nature of being and developing as communities of human beings.

Learning is a response to curiosity, to a thirst to understand and to connect with more of life, and it has an innate sense of hope, of future, about it. It also requires, no, it demands commitment.

The Catholic Tradition's dedication to Learning, its pursuit of ethical principles associated with Catholic Social Teaching and other collections of principles continues to rest not in abstract, out-of-reach ideas, but in the heart and soul of curiosity, thirst for knowledge and connection, and in hope. Together, we explore what it means to be human in the broader creation and we ask, how can we live fairly and well as a society, as communities, families, and individually?

Learning involves contemplative and experiential processes. These processes are both with others and alone. – For centuries reading has been a crucial tool in the learning process, and as with reading, skimming or constant scrolling is not adequate.

Learning requires time, effort, focus, and habit, life-long commitment to building and growing integrated abilities, skills, and understandings, bases of knowledge that lead to *thinking well* and doing so in an ethical, relational context. We observe this wondrous, developmental process happening with our students, and hopefully with ourselves, as well.

A love of learning, life-long learning, is essential to society and to our commitment to helping to grow a more just and kinder world, and not just a sustainable Earth environment, but one that is healing and regenerative.

Slide 5

Without a passion for learning, deep learning that engages and touches mind, heart, body, and soul, how can we be about Mercy? Learning is not separate from ethical questions but is a robust, integrated adventure.—When Catherine McAuley was developing the program at the House of Mercy, she traveled to France to learn all she could about new teaching methods. She always had mentors and guides, and dialogue partners, throughout her life, and in turn, she was for others.

Slide 6

We, each, are part of the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and the Mercy higher education tradition, which bequeath to us vital treasures, such as the love of learning and sharing in the great dialogue, which always aims for goodness and truth in a world that is at its core sacred and beautiful. How do we model this adventure for our learning communities?

Slide 7. ----

--What learning adventure have you been on lately?

--Where did your learning process take you to last year? ... What do you hope for this year?

Slide 8. Questions for Dialogue **PAUSE THE VIDEO**

Where do you see a fear of learning, and/or a lack of experience with habits that foster learning?

How can we better create cultures of learning?

Slide 9. Book Recommendation Show final slide or just mention the recommended book.

Reader, Come Home: The Reading Brain in a Digital World

by Maryanne Wolf, scholar-in-residence at UCLA

FACILITATOR READS to close - (no slide)

Spirit of the Living God, guide us in our Mission in the spirit of Mercy. -- AMEN