

September 27, 2016

### Mount Mercy Academy Celebrates Mercy Day

Mount Mercy Academy celebrated a very important day in its history on Friday September 23, 2016. September 24<sup>th</sup> is Mercy Day, an important day for every member of the Mercy Community. Mercy Day is the Feast Day for Our Lady of Mercy. It is also the anniversary of the establishment and opening of the first house of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland in 1827. On this day, Mount Mercy gathers as a community to honor Mother Catherine McAuley and Our Lady of Mercy.

Father Bryan Zielenieski celebrated the mass, with Father Bill Bigelow concelebrating. During the mass ten students were installed as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Seniors Marissa Neubeck of Lackawanna and Emmaline Robinson of West Seneca, along with juniors Olivia Andriaccio, Olivia Cudney, Julia Acosta, Naomi Parisi, and Sarah Howard of Buffalo, Elizabeth Pantano and Nora Galley of West Seneca and Kayleigh Mighells of Lackawanna were installed by Father Bryan.

In addition, the members of the administrative team, the faculty and staff, as well as the student government officers, were also commissioned for the 2016-2017 school year. Student government officers are president Hannah Colin of Buffalo, vice-president Emily Lewandowki of East Aurora, secretary Marisa May of Buffalo and treasurer Alyssa Lickfield of Buffalo.

Concluding the special ceremonies during the mass was the pinning of the senior class. The senior class pins are a symbol proudly worn by all Mount Mercy seniors. The pin, which is the Mercy Coat of Arms was given to the Religious Order Our Lady of Mercy by King James of Aragon in the 13<sup>th</sup> century to recognize the great work of this Order in the ransoming of slaves. Since that time the shield has been universally recognized as the symbol of Mercy. Catherine McAuley in 1828 chose the name Sisters of Mercy for her new Religious Order and adopted the shield for the Order. She felt the gold background was a symbol of God's mercy and the five bars signified Mercy and the cross represented sacrifice. Receiving this shield serves as a reminder to seniors to exemplify the Mercy charisms.

### **Mount Mercy Academy**

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