

THE NINTH GRADE NEWS

Women Who Make a Difference

Issue #15

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Mercy Values in Action

The Sisters of Mercy identify The Five Mercy Values, intended to both inspire and challenge the Mercy community. These Five Mercy Values are *Human Dignity, Mercy, Justice, Service, and Option for the Poor*. With the Heart of Mercy Assembly next month and as a proud member of the Mercy family, I can attest that these five beautiful principals are alive and well throughout the Mercy halls, but as I recently began to ponder each of these values, I found myself wondering: how often our students actively try to work these concepts into their daily lives? I see such goodness in each and every one of our 9th graders and I see demonstrations of our core values daily, but are our Freshwomen aware of how and when they are incorporating Mercy morals into their daily living? A little review session may be in order.

Trusty, old Wikipedia illustrates the concept of *Human Dignity* stating: "all human beings possess intrinsic worthiness and deserve unconditional respect, regardless

of age, sex, health status, social or ethnic origin, political ideas, religion, or criminal history". I hope that each and every Mercy girl here views each other as a member of an exceptional sisterhood. I also hope we never forget "The Golden Rule": Treat others the way you want to be treated.

The word *Mercy* reminds me of compassionate behavior. In addition to the vast education each Freshwoman will earn at this High School, it is my wish that they will also leave with empathy; the ability to put themselves into someone else's shoes.

The third Mercy Value is *Justice*, or moral rightness. It is my desire to see the Class of 2013 mature and grow to be women who know the difference between right and wrong, and who choose to always act on what is just.

Service is a somewhat unavoidable value here at Mercy, as each student is required to provide 40 hours of service prior to graduating. Further, Mercy's intention is to foster

a commitment to service within each student, to motivate our females to give time and care to those in need beyond their Mercy career.

Finally, *Option for the Poor* is the fifth Mercy Value. I feel that interest in the physical and spiritual welfare of those less fortunate is relevant to all lives, especially in our country today. I hope that our Mercy girls are all able to learn the importance of this pertinent value.

I challenge all in the Mercy community—students, parents, and staff to evaluate your own values. Does your daily life reflect The Five Mercy Values? Can you imagine what a lovely world this would be if we could all live with these principals actively in mind? I have always been a fan of leading by example and it is my hope that this year's Freshwomen will grow to do just that.

Mrs. Brown

SAVE THE DATE

January 13~1:40 Dismissal

January 18~MLK Day, NO SCHOOL

January 19-21~Exams

January 22~NO SCHOOL

REMINDER

All Mercy students will receive a copy of their second semester schedule from their Adviser after exams.

FYI

I will begin meeting with Freshwomen to plan their 2010-2011 course schedules in February!