Reflections

Dear Friends of Mercy,

Our mission statement proclaims: 
Mercy High School is a diverse educational community, founded by the Sisters of Mercy, focusing on academic excellence and inspiring young girls to become confident women of Mercy who embody faith, knowledge and compassionate service. Without YOU, our mission statement would only be words! Your prayers and generous support make those words come alive. I have the privilege of seeing your prayers and actions daily in the faces of the young girls who attend Mercy High School.

YOU invest in our $1.6 million tuition assistance program. This program opens our door to families who thought they could never afford Catholic high school tuition. 82% of our families receive some tuition assistance. We provide more tuition assistance per student than any other Catholic high school in Omaha. Please know each family does pay tuition and they give thanks for YOU.

YOU support an environment that fosters a life of faith and service for now and into the future for our students and graduates. When you have a moment, please read some of the alumnae stories on our website to see what they are doing as Women of Mercy in our world today.

YOU contribute to the ongoing success of our graduating classes. They have been awarded $21.5 million in post-secondary scholarships over the last five years.

I am ending my reflection with a quote from Pope Francis that I used to start last year’s report: “We do not serve some idea, we serve people.” Because of YOU, we serve our students and their families.

Please remember all of us in your prayers.

Blessings to all of YOU,

Sr. Delores
President, Mercy High School

P.S. Outlined graphically is our financial picture from our last fiscal year. YOU are part of our Endowment, FIESTA and Advancement income. Our major investment is our faculty and staff salaries and benefits.

Change in Annual Report

You can see that our annual report has changed this year. We appreciate each of our donors and have decided to post all donor lists on our website (lists are now available under the Support Mercy tab). By doing so, we have been able to increase print size, decrease the amount of paper used (150,000 pieces), save printing and postage cost, and support the Sisters of Mercy in their critical concern of reverence for the earth.

--Sr. Dee

Zip Codes Represented by Mercy Students

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“Every single one of our daughters has thrived at this school. Mercy provides you the opportunities to be involved with whatever you want from athletics to the arts to clubs and organizations while maintaining academic excellence and a top-notch learning environment,” said Halle.

The family has many personal stories about the care that Mercy displays for its students.

“By the time Madison had decided she wanted to go to Mercy, she had missed the auditions for the Mercy High Singers and was devastated. I contacted the teacher who understood completely and even made special accommodations so Madison could audition,” Halle said.

Each of their daughters has taken different journeys at the school. When Madison was at Mercy, she was the lead actress in several plays including Belle in “Beauty and the Beast” and Fanny Brice in “Funny Girl.” She graduated in 2011 and went on to get a degree in Music and Musical Theatre from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Now she works at the Omaha Children’s Museum, is an actress under contract with the Rose Theatre, and teaches at the Omaha School of Music and Dance.

Brittlin Hoge ’14

Their second oldest daughter, Brittlin, contemplated not going to Mercy but was “encouraged” by her parents when they told her the other option was being home-schooled.

“One day in our junior class, a student was talking about why she left the school because she was homeschooled, and I really started to question whether I should go to Mercy,” Brittlin said.

“The 2014 graduate was involved in the Mercy High Singers, Show Choir, and soccer at Mercy while simultaneously excelling academically. She is working towards a Chemical Engineering degree at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln as a Regents Scholar. She is also studying abroad in London this semester and was lucky enough to spend Mercy Day at the Baggot Street House in Dublin.

Brittlin Hoge ’14 visits the Baggot Street House in Dublin.

(continued page 4)
Lyndee Hoge ’17

With their third daughter Lyndee, Mercy again demonstrated its care, concern, and ability to focus on individual student success.

“Incoming freshmen do not typically have the option of taking Honors Algebra 2. Mercy worked with us to give Lyndee access to this class,” Eric added.

The senior is a National Merit Semifinalist, Student Council Secretary, Stage Manager for “The Wizard of Oz,” one of three students chosen to portray Catherine McAuley in the Mercy Day play, and has a 4.2 GPA. She loves theater and has dedicated herself to performances for the past four years.

She previously was a member of soccer and Show Choir. Lyndee is in the midst of figuring out her college choices but is leaning towards obtaining a degree in language development or linguistics.

She is extremely grateful to donors for the support they have given to her Mercy education.

“By easing the financial situation for my parents, the donors have helped take the weight off my family and given me space to stretch and grow and not be confined by limits. At other schools, for example, if you are a thespian, that’s all you do. At Mercy, you can do those things that you are interested in and that bring out your best self,” said Lyndee.

Her younger sister, sophomore Kiley, echoes that appreciation.

Kiley Hoge ’19

“I feel immense gratitude to donors who give their money to help others, and I am humbled that they have entrusted their generosity to my education success,” Kiley said.

The gifted athlete played on the Varsity Soccer Team as a freshmen. She is also a member of Operation Others, the Omaha area Catholic high school food drive, and enjoys World History.

Future Students

The last two Hoge daughters, Ellah (9) and Genevieve (7), are also slated to go to Mercy when old enough.

“As a mom, I can’t think of a better blessing than to know my daughters will attend a school that will help mold them into strong, successful women,” Halle said.

The couple is also impressed with the diversity of the school — socioeconomically, culturally, and demographically.

“I remember Brittlin telling me that at Mercy, you are cool for who you are, not for the clothes you wear, the neighborhood you’re from, or the Church you go to,” Halle added.
“Mercy accepted me. I had the opportunity to prove to the school and myself that I could still graduate on time with my class. The faculty had my back. It was a place of peace and safety from the challenges I faced at home each day,” she added.

According to Tondeleya, college was a breeze because Mercy prepared her so well. She can still write a paper in MLA format today.

She graduated from Metropolitan Community College in 2013 with a degree in Criminal Justice. Employed at Bank of the West in the loan-processing department for 12 years, she has three children Ta’Vaisy, 15, Kai, 11, and Andre, 4. She also recently got engaged.

The decision on the high school where her daughter would attend was easy. Tondeleya knew it needed to be Mercy.

“It is hard to bring into words how grateful I am to donors who have made this dream come true for my daughter. There would not even be a possibility for my daughter to attend this school without the generosity of these wonderful people,” she said.

The Negotiated Tuition Program has supported the family and Tondeleya feels it’s critical for donors to know that their generosity provides many girls the opportunity to become amazing Women of Mercy.

“I would not be the same without Mercy High School. It has helped me grow in faith, knowledge, and service. Please help Mercy continue educating and empowering girls to become strong women. If you donate to Mercy you are helping to keep rich traditions alive, teach the importance of service, and transform girls into confident, strong Women of Mercy.”

Adeline Costello ’19

Women of Mercy
 Mercy Alumnae are doing amazing things all over the world. Below you will see three examples of Women of Mercy. Their stories, along with others, can be found on the Mercy website under the Alumnae tab called Alumnae Features.

McKayla Roberts ’15
Student at Oral Roberts

Kelly K. Nystrom ’86
Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Creighton University

The Dunn Sisters:
Back row L. to R.: Elizabeth ’10, Andrea ’08, Michaela ’00, and Sarah ’98.
Front row L. to R.: Kaylea ’96 and Regina Dunn Caffrey ’02.
Memorials

The following have been enrolled into our Memorial Association from July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016.

Albert Angele, Jr.
William L. Babb
Mildred A. Baines
Kathleen Polski Baratta ’68
Eleanor Becerra
Nancy Barry Becker ’65
Antoinette Capellupo Blazevich ’58
Rose D. Bozak
Christine Standeven Cerveny ’62
Richard F. Chadek, III
Nicholas P. Cileborad
Burt and Patricia Kunz Claytor ’56
Mary Beth Petersen Coate ’59
Nicholas C. Combs
Joseph D. Connell
Robert and Marie Connelly
Rita M. Connor
Sr. Anna Maria Coverdell, RSM
Robert L. Crouch
Connie J. Curro
Kathleen R. Cuva ’65
Helen T. David
Sr. Elaine Delaney, RSM
Ann Kubat Dethlefs, SJ ’48
Richard E. Donelan
Elise A. Downs
Ron Ron
Frank B. Evans
Mary Ann Cunningham Filippi, SM ’42
Kathleen Ryder Finnegam, SM ’45
Sr. M. Norbert Flesch, RSM
Gloria Jezezski Flynn, SJ ’50
Richard A. Foral, Sr.
Sandra Zuger Fuller ’68
Jerimiah P. Galvin
Sr. M. Jude Graham, RSM, SM ’37
Diane Pane Haase ’72
Louis J. Halamek
Gerald M. Haney
Craig Hansen
Claire Allison Harry, SM ’51
Marlayne Harry ’74
Charles F. Heider
Jo Kastl Henely, SM ’47
Barbara Conigloio Herold ’61
E. Jean Fleissner Herrman, SM ’48
Harold and Agnes Higgins
Caeli M. Hill
Sr. M. Mechulde Hill, RSM
Dolores M. Hinck
Carolyn Landrie Hoagland ’68
Clarence A. Holloway
Stella V. Jacobsen
Pauline A. Jakshich
Mary M. Johnson
Patricia Wagner Jones, SM ’50
Jane M. Keller ’66
Sr. Roseline Kos, RSM
Judith L. Krell ’57
Danuta M. Kulas
Elizabeth Ruffino Lapsley ’62
Rosemary Wessling Lubbers ’71
Margaret Hopkins Macaitis ’56
Kathryn A. Madej
Akuel M. Majouk ’12
Ann R. Marasco
Lawrence F. Mauro
Sr. Mary Rita Jane McCarron, RSM
Colette K. McGinnis
Mary Weidner McGowan ’58
Robert McKeone
John E. McMahon
Joseph “Don” Meier
Rita Kelly Meister, SJ ’52
Rosemarie Menzel
Roman Metz
Angelo and Ermelinda Micheleto
Sharon Miller ’58
Virginia Milioni
Sr. Adele Mondragon, RSM
Sr. Lois Mary Morrissey, RSM, SM ’55
Alice G. Morse
Thomas J. Nastase, Jr.
Joseph and Dorothy Nekola
Caroline Newton
Christopher A. Newton
Edward J. Nicola
Judith Marshall Nisi ’65
James J. Novotny
Robert Nystrom
Elaine Oliver
Mary “Ginny” Pugh Oliveto ’61
Thomas M. O’Neill
Helen M. Patane
Joan Konon Pilus, SM ’55
Geri Schneiderwind Piotrowski ’76
Jean L. Pisci
Sr. Rita Ann Podhola, RSM
Salvator Polito, Jr.
Betty J. Preuss
Deborah Radik
David Rayer
John E. Redmond, Jr.
Joseph G. Respeliers, Sr.
Jerry L. Reynolds
Dolores Brewster Rice, SM ’38
Virginia A. Rife
Jeanette Emminger Rosemann ’59
Bette Skorka Rudloff, SM ’51
Mary Jo Rump
Filadelfio and Concerta Russo
Regina Kimball Schnitzer, SJ ’39
Marilyn Borovac Schuette ’57
Harold and Alvina Schumacher
Patricia A. Schweiger ’64
Helen Shadle
Nora J. Sheckler
Mary Ann Cusick Sklenar, SM ’54
Jeanette Slavin
Robert A. Smjekal, Sr.
Alice Moser Smisek, SM ’49
Memorials (continued)

Lorray D. Smith ’67
Grace C. Sobczyk
Andrew J. Sommer
Kate Dodson Sommer ’74
Helen Mickells Stanek, SJ ’49
Ted J. Stessman
Barbara Tigges Stewart ’59
Barb Stracke
Roy H. Stubbs
Karen Svoboda
Donald L. Swingholm, Sr.
Sr. Mary Agnes Tamisiea, RSM
Mary Margaret Tanner, SM ’53
Katherine L. Thomas
Mary Jo Thurmond
Judith Schultz Tomaszkiewicz ’59
Marianne Schwee Tripp, SJ ’48
Joseph A. Troia
Nicholas J. Vacanti
Leo H. Von Tersch
Robert B. Wagner
Marian Walsh
Maude Fodrea Wangberg, MSM ’24
Amil and Helen Ward
Terese Habron Ware ’76
Lucille Lynam Warren, SJ ’38
Robert J. Westergard
Beverly Stahurski White ’56
Genevieve Wichert
Barbara Mowery Wingate ’64
Sr. Kathleen C. Zaner, RSM
Sebastian and Louise Zarbano
Sarah Zuger

Tributes

The following were received by the Advancement Office from July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016.

Anniversary
Mercy High School (60th)
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community (150th)

Continued Improved Health
Sr. Patricia Guziec, RSM ’58
Mike Murphy
Sue Smith

In honor of
Carrie Zuerlein George ’91
Jenna Adkins Kessell ’02
Marj Kastl Krawczyk, SM ’52
Danielle Zuerlein McBride ’00
Sr. Pius X grads attending Mercy
Sr. Mary Cephas Wichman, RSM +
Mildred Gruidel Zadina, SJ ’45

Jubilarians
Sr. Jean Marie Adam, RSM ’66 (50th)
Sr. Maura Clark, RSM (60th)
Sr. M. Georgita Cunningham, RSM (60th)
Sr. Diane Davidson, RSM (60th)
Sr. Mary Ellen Devereux, RSM (70th)
Sr. Mary Kay Dobrovolny, RSM (25th)
Sr. Evangela Dorris, RSM (75th)
Sr. Mary del Rey Ekler, RSM (70th)
Sr. Maria Klosowski, RSM (50th)
Sr. M. Regis Leahy, RSM (70th)
Sr. M. Angelo Lobato, RSM (75th)
Sr. Elaine Lopez Pacheco, RSM (50th)
Sr. Patricia McDermott, RSM ’66 (50th)
Sr. M. Helena Naviaux, RSM (70th)
Sr. Therese Randolph, RSM ’56 (60th)
Sr. Monica Marie Reichmuth, RSM (60th)
Sr. Jeanita Richter, RSM (60th)
Dr. Michon Rozmajzl, RSM, SM ’55 (60th)
Sr. Rose Schoolcraft, RSM (50th)
Sr. Susan Severin, RSM, SM ’55 (60th)
Sr. M. Lisa Staudacher, RSM (60th)
Sr. Rose Elizabeth Stec, RSM (75th)
Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM ’66 (50th)
Sr. M. Jeananne Sutton, RSM, SJ ’41 (75th)
Sr. Margaret Mary Sutton, RSM, SJ ’36 (80th)
Sr. Sylvia Swanke, RSM (60th)
Sr. Camilla Verret, RSM (60th)
Sr. M. Karen Yarkosky, RSM (70th)

Retirement
Sr. Marilyn Ross, RSM

Wedding Anniversary
Michael and Margaret Gaughan (50th)
Gregory and Maxine Thell Vinardi ’62 (50th)

+ Deceased
Mark your calendar today!
Attend this fun-filled event that raises money for Negotiated Tuition.