



MISSION FORMATION FRAMEWORK

This resource provides the framework and practical suggestions for mission formation and development in MAEA Colleges.

Context:

Formation is inspired and guided by the person and messages of Jesus Christ.

“I tell you in so far as you did it to the least of mine, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

Through our trust in divine providence, our vision is to witness to the Gospel through our commitment to the values of hope, justice and compassion in loving service of God’s people, especially the poor and marginalised.

Vision Statement, Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

Formation provides leaders with the knowledge, spiritual grounding and skills necessary to animate our ministries to be communities that embrace *“the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of people of our time.”*

MAM Leadership Formation Framework, Formation of the Heart

“Our congregation’s spirit and our inheritance is the gospel privilege of serving others, especially the poor. Our story is one of innovation, courage and conviction.... We are confident that through Mary Aikenhead Ministries the spirit of service will flourish in new and progressive ways, always alive to the spirit of the times.”

Sr Elizabeth Dodds rsc, Congregational Leader at the time of MAM’s establishment.

Evangelisation and Culture: The experience of life in the Spirit is one of a movement from the centre of self, community, charism, church and institution into the world. The encounter beyond one’s centre, shapes not only those with whom contact is made but also impacts on the interior life of self, community, charism, church and institution. At its ideal, there is transformation.

Ignation Spirituality for Today, edited by Martin Scroop & Sandie Cornish, 2008

All the baptised are called to be prophetic in challenging the prevailing culture in light of the Gospel announcement of the presence of God’s reign in the world. The central prophetic elements of this culture are found in stories, rituals, service and advocacy, the hope and the humour, the risks and the vision.

MAM Theological Statement: Petition to the Holy See

Framework:

Mission formation is an ongoing priority for directors, leaders and staff in MAEA colleges. Within this context, the pillars of the ***Enduring, Expressive and Evolving*** stories from the MAEA resource *'By this Everyone will know...'* provide a framework for the creation of mission programs, events and experiences.

Enduring Story: knowing and understanding our Christian heritage through the life and ministry of Jesus as encompassed in the values of the gospel.

Expressive Story: entering and understanding the story, charism and heritage of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity through community.

Evolving Story: owning and shaping the story into the future.



Enduring Story: knowing and understanding our Christian heritage through the life and ministry of Jesus as encompassed in the values of the gospel.

The Enduring story speaks about Jesus, his life and ministry and the values of the gospel. In the context of Mission Formation, this story becomes our foundational story. The Gospel values of Love, Justice, Compassion and Hope, together with scripture will inform Mission Formation.

Recommended Mission Formation Framework Topics for entering the Enduring story include, but are not limited to:

- Trinitarian God/ Jesus Story, use of scripture as foundation.
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Service Ministry: preferential option for the poor.
- Prophetic culture
- Trust in the providence of God

Related scripture passages:

Micah 6 :6-8, John 13: 31-35, Matthew 25: 31-40

Expressive Story: entering and understanding the story, charism and heritage of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity through community.

The Expressive Story speaks about how the life and ministry of the founding story of Jesus Christ are given expression in the prophetic response of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity through the charism, ministry and tradition. Theirs was a 'response to a call.'

In the context of mission formation, we are invited to understand and value the life of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity. The spirit or charism is one of trusting the providence of God, courage in the face of challenge and reaching out to those in need.

Mission formation again invites us into theological reflection and to understand Ignatian spirituality, the congregation motto of 'Caritas Christi Urget Nos' and the prophetic outlook of the Sisters; all of which have characterised the congregation of the Sisters of Charity since its foundation.

Recommended Mission Formation Framework Topics for entering the Expressive story include, but are not limited to:

- Mary Aikenhead as founder
- The Sisters of Charity, Ireland and Australia
- Motto: Caritas Christi Urget nos
- Trust in Divine Providence
- Prophetic in outlook
- Ignatian spirituality, shared wisdom, collaboration and discernment
- Ritual, prayer and sacrament central to Sisters of Charity.

Related scripture passages:

John 13: 5-15, Luke 16: 19-31, Isaiah 41:10, Job 29: 14-16

Evolving Story: owning and shaping the story into the future.

The Evolving Story is about taking the story forward. How we shape the future and steward the mission for our time onwards. We are invited to understand our foundation's faith, spirituality and traditions and take them purposefully into the future.

In the context of mission formation, this story becomes the living story, honouring the past, yet also taking carriage and responsibility of the mission as it pertains to the present and future. This becomes '*stewarding the mission*' into the future.

Recommended Mission Formation Framework Topics for entering the Evolving story include, but are not limited to:

- Catholic Social Teaching
- Prophetic culture and trust in Divine Providence
- Servant leadership
- Preferential option for the Poor.
- Oversight of the expression of the ethos
- MAM Values: Love, Hope, Justice and Compassion
- MAM Crest, its significance
- MAM evolving ministry
- MAM Organisational structure
- MAEA Strategic Plan
- History and evolving story of each college
- Mission led leadership
- Ignatian Spirituality, shared wisdom, collaboration and discernment
- Board stewardship
- Board and Leadership decision-making.
- Formation in the sacramental and ritual within MAM traditions
- Contemporary Catholic Education Context.
- Qualities and practices of servant leadership
- Ethical leadership
- Community spirituality.
- Catholic Governance- Integration of Mission and Civil responsibilities (Board and Principal)
- Structures and constitutions- Civil and canonical (Board and Principal)
- Oversight of care of temporal good (Board and Principal)
- Oversight of achieving the objects of catholic education (Board and Principal)

Related scripture passages:

Luke 4: 18a, Luke 4: 18b-19, John 14: 8-13, John 10:10, John 15: 14-17

Resources:

Mary Aikenhead Ministries' Leadership Framework

Mary Aikenhead Ministries' Round Table Document

Mary Aikenhead Ministries' Voices from the Heart

Mary Aikenhead Education Australia Policy Manual and Handbook

Mary Aikenhead Education Australia *"By this all will know..."* Contemporary Indicators of MAEA Colleges.

Mary Aikenhead Education Australia Principal Induction Booklet

Mary Aikenhead Education Australia Board Director Induction Booklet

Mary Aikenhead Education Australia electronic resources

Mary Aikenhead Education Australia Induction Booklet, *So you are working in a Mary Aikenhead Ministries College.*

NCEC Formation Framework, 2017

College specific formation resources.

Mary Aikenhead Ministries' Pilgrimages: Ireland, Hobart, Paramatta.

Acronyms

MAM: Mary Aikenhead Ministries

TMAM: Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

MAEA: Mary Aikenhead Education Australia

NCEC: National Catholic Education Commission

Formation Framework Appendix.

PRAYER Knowing the Story	COMMUNITY Entering the Story	MISSION Shaping the Story
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<i>Charism and Spirituality</i>	<i>The Living Story</i>	<i>Governance</i>	<i>Theology of Mission</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>
Founding Jesus Story, Mary Aikenhead as Founder, the Sisters of Charity, Ireland and Australia. Motto: Caritas Christi Urget Nos Trust in Divine Providence. Prophetic in outlook.	The History of each College, within the context of catholic education.	Catholic Governance - Integration of Mission and Civil responsibilities.	“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor...” Luke 4: 18a	Oversight of the expression of the ethos. Contemporary Indicators of MAM College
Mary Aikenhead Ministries Values: Love, Hope, Justice and Compassion Mary Aikenhead Ministries Crest, its Christian significance. Mary Aikenhead Ministries’ evolving charism	The MAM Ministries, organisational structure and respective partnerships	Structures and constitutions - Civil and Canonical	Catholic Social Teaching	Oversight of care for the temporal goods
Scripture as foundation.	Mary Aikenhead Education Australia, Strategic Plan & Contemporary Indicators.	Mary Aikenhead Ministries Key Trustee Documents, including the Round Table Project	Formation of the Heart Ethical Framework, Educational Philosophy & Roundtable resource	Oversight of achieving the objects of catholic education and the companies.
Service Ministry – Preferential Option for the Poor	Lay Leadership: story as an expression of the values – the lived reality. Mary Aikenhead Ministries in Education, Healthcare, Research and social services as Ministries of the Church.	Ignatian Spirituality, shared wisdom, collaboration and discernment. Board stewardship & decision-making	Prophetic Culture & Trust in Divine Providence	“He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” Luke 4: 18b-19
<i>Charism and Spirituality</i>	<i>The Living Story</i>	<i>Governance</i>	<i>Theology of Mission</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>
Formation in the Sacrament and Ritual within the Mary Aikenhead Ministries Tradition: prayer, lectio divina, liturgy, sacraments	Mary Aikenhead Education Australia, Contemporary Indicators.	Sacramental life of the Board corporately	Contemporary Catholic Education Context	Congregation for Catholic Education: Educating for today and tomorrow: A renewing Passion. <i>Instrumentum laboris 2014</i>
Mary Aikenhead Ministries Roundtable Document	Ignatian Spirituality		Missiology	Congregation for Catholic Education: Educating together in Catholic Schools. 2007
Formation in Ignatian Discernment	Qualities of Servant Leadership.	Board & Executive leadership & decision-making		The Sacred Conversation for Catholic Education. The Catholic School 1977
Formation towards a Personal Spirituality, understanding of Ignatian Spirituality	Towards a community Spirituality.	Prayer life of the Board corporately.		Scripture as foundation