



**FORMATION SESSION 2:**

***‘By this Everyone will Know...’ HOPE and the Love of Christ Impels***

There are many different approaches to formation as well as stages or phases that participants experience while engaged in formation. The overall goal is to assist leaders to be confident and competent in guiding and directing their ministries. A critical element in effective leadership formation for MAM is to realize that it is beyond theory and focused on the lived experience of mission and ministry. It involves information and understanding of content yet goes beyond this to elicit commitment to lived values... Extract from MAM Leadership Framework.

The relationship between the Foundational Christian story of Jesus, the Mary Aikenhead tradition and the evolving spirit of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, should be consistent in the delivery of all mission formation programs in accordance with our commitment to the preferential option for the poor.

The principles, which guide mission development, are forward-looking and engage in the three levels of story: the Enduring story of God through Jesus, the Expressive story of Mary Aikenhead and the Evolving story of the Spirit alive in the hearts of those engaged in the service through Mary Aikenhead Ministries. Mission formation is an important and ongoing priority in the context of Mary Aikenhead Education Australia; it is central to who we are and what we do. Extract from the MAEA Formation Policy

	Program and Focus	Guide Notes
Prayer and Welcome  Setting the Scene:  5 min	<p>Leader: This session intended as invitational, to draw on the heritage, and to provide the space to be forward-looking. This is a place of trust. The session will be interwoven with scripture, stories from the heritage, our own stories <u>to ponder from the perspective of btewk and the value of Hope.</u> From there we are invited to place ourselves in the story and consider your current work.</p> <p>Resource 1: Prayer Begin with a welcome and finish with a prayer/ reflection. Invite participant to consider: How do you understand, and experience hope in your life. (this <i>remains confidential to participants</i>)</p>	Post-it note.
Scripture:	<p>Listen to scripture: <i>‘Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.’</i> John 14:27 Refer MAM Mission, Vision and Values.</p>	Bible: read aloud:

10 min	<p>Consider where this fits in John's gospel, that Jesus is getting the disciples ready for him to leave. Note the sense of the Holy Spirit... Encouragement for a belief bigger than the present. Sit with the images of 'light in darkness' and 'the door that opens onto the future'</p> <p>What is this saying to you at this time? Why so? _ Copy page 13 from MV&amp;V</p>	John 14 1-9; 25-28
15 min	<p><u>Vignettes of Hope and Trust from our heritage...</u></p> <p>Leader to choose one of the options listed below, depending on time available and the number of people in the group:</p> <p>A) Different people read different articles and share. OR  B) Groups of two or three read the same article and share. OR  C) Leader select one article, and all read the same item.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apostolate of Love: Mary Aikenhead 1787 – 1858 Chapter 16, p.113- 124 <a href="#">Click here</a></li> <li>2. A Cause of Trouble? Irish Nuns and English Clerics – Chapter 2, Volunteers for Australia. P. 15-25 <a href="#">Click here</a></li> <li>3. Mother Agnes Morrogh Bernard, Foxford 1800s - see You tube: (4 minutes) <a href="#">Click here</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvN7OGLdivs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvN7OGLdivs</a></li> <li>4. Sr Annette Cunliffe rsc President, Catholic Religious Australia, Congregational Leader Sisters of Charity, Australia, ABC Podcast 2013: What do Australians and women hope for from Pope Francis. (15 minutes) <a href="#">Click here</a>  <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/religionandethicsreport/what-do-australians-and-women-hope-for-from-pope-francis3f/4584706">https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/religionandethicsreport/what-do-australians-and-women-hope-for-from-pope-francis3f/4584706</a></li> <li>5. Ministry of Love, the Story of the Sisters of Charity, pages 60-61 re the establishment of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. <a href="#">Click here</a></li> </ol> <p><b><i>As you read, consider how the value of Hope and the Sisters of Charity faith in the Providence of God is given expression in the vignette/s you have read.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>What are the traits/characteristics of this Hope and 'Trust in Providence'?</i></b></p>	
15 min	<p>For Discussion: <b><i>Who are we Called to be?</i></b></p> <p><b><i>What do we take from the work, motivation, faith and tenacity of the women and men in the extract/s?</i></b></p> <p><b><i>How do I/we lead with Hope and Trust in Gods' Providence in my/our work?</i></b></p>	
5 min	<p>Leader:</p> <p><b><i>Invite participants to sit quietly for a couple of minutes: Ponder their own gifts and how their particular gifts come to the fore as you collectively lead and serve your college. Ende with the story 'Take the next step'</i></b></p>	

Reflection.	Refer 'Take the Next Step' <a href="#">Click here</a>	
5 min	Hope – Tim Costello	

<b>Reference Material:</b>
<p>Bible</p> <p>Mary Aikenhead Ministries' Vision, Values and Mission</p> <p><i>By this Everyone Will Know...</i> refer <a href="https://www.btewk.com.au/">https://www.btewk.com.au/</a></p> <p>Ministry of Love, the Story of the Sisters of Charity 2018</p> <p>A Cause of Trouble? Irish Nuns and English Clerics, Second Edition M.M.K. O'Sullivan 2019 (Moira)</p> <p>Anchor of Hope sung by Ellie Holcomb <a href="https://youtu.be/d83RFgD31Fs">https://youtu.be/d83RFgD31Fs</a></p> <p>Hope...</p> <p><i>"While optimism makes us live as if someday soon things will soon go better for us, <b>hope</b> frees us from the need to predict the future and allows us to live in the present, with the deep trust that God will never leave us alone but will fulfil the deepest desires of our heart."</i></p> <p>Henri J.M.Nouwen, <u><a href="#">Here and Now: Living in The Spirit</a></u></p>

Resource 1:

### A REFLECTION ON HOPE

**Hope** and despair are not opposites. They are cut from the same cloth, made from the very same material, shaped from the very same circumstances.

Most of all, every life finds itself forced to choose  
one from the other, one day at a time,  
one circumstance from another.

The only difference between the two is that  
despair shapes an attitude of mind;  
hope creates a quality of soul.

Despair colors the way we look at things,  
makes us suspicious of the future,  
makes us negative about the present.

Hope, on the other hand, takes life on its own terms,  
knows that whatever happens God lives in it  
and expects that, whatever its twists and turns,  
it will ultimately yield its good to those who live it well.

When tragedy strikes, when trouble comes,  
when life disappoints us,  
we stand at the crossroads between hope and despair  
...torn and hurting.

Despair cements us to the present;  
hope sends us dancing around dark corners  
trusting in a tomorrow we cannot see.

Despair says that there is no place to go but here.  
hope says that God is waiting for us someplace else.  
Begin again...

Resource 2:

We pray.....

**All:**

To have hope  
is to believe that history continues to open,  
to the dream of God,  
and to human creativity.

To have hope  
is to continue affirming  
that it is possible to dream a different world,  
without hunger, without injustice,  
without discrimination.

To have hope  
is to be the courier of God,  
and courier of women and men of goodwill,  
tearing down walls, destroying borders,  
building bridges.

To have hope  
is to believe in the revolutionary potential of faith,  
is to leave the door open, so that  
the Spirit can enter and make all things anew.

To have hope  
is to believe that life wins over death.

To have hope  
is to begin again as many times as necessary.

To have hope  
is to believe that hope is not  
the last thing that dies.

To have hope  
is to believe that hope cannot die,  
that hope no longer dies.

To have hope  
is to live.

Let us pray,  
that we continue to live  
with hope  
as our constant companion.

Amen

Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, Prayer Without Borders.

## Our Unique Call

So many terrible things happen every day that we can start wondering whether the few things we do ourselves make any sense. When people are starving only a few thousand miles away, when wars are raging close to our borders, when countless people in our cities have no homes to live in, our own activities can look futile. Such considerations, however, can paralyse and depress us.

Here the word call becomes important. We are not called to save the world, solve all problems, and help all people. But each of us has our own unique call, in our families, in our work, in our world. We have to keep asking God to help us see clearly what our call is and to give us the strength to live out that call with trust. Then we will discover that our faithfulness to a small task is the most healing response to the illnesses of our time.

Henri Nouwen Bread for the Journey

**We pause to reflect.....**

**As we enter 2021 together what are we hopeful for?**